DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

SC stays HC nod to prosecute IAS officer

Relief to Rohini Sindhuri in case related to 'irregularities' in procurement of bags

Page 4

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán concedes defeat to Peter Magyar

Page 12

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Social Welfare Department

"Education is the most important weapon to raise the standard of living of the people"

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

135th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Garlanding the Statue of

Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.00 AM

East Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Stage Event

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.30 AM

Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

As is enshrined in our constitution, **"to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture"** - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

Secretary to Government
Social Welfare Department

@SWDGok

Humayun, Mamata two of a kind; BJP won't allow Babri Masjid to be built in Bengal
Political Theatre
We are being branded as B'deshis for eating fish, meat and speaking Bengali. We know how to fight for our rights

DECCAN HERALD
Tuesday
April 14, 2026

Poll vault

Campaign stunt
TVK leader and actor C Joseph Vijay suddenly stepped out of his campaign van while en route to Kanyakumari district on Sunday. He then hopped onto a bicycle and rode it for a short distance, leaving his personal security officers scrambling. His fans, who were following him on two-wheelers, began running behind the bicycle. After a while, Vijay got off the cycle and returned to his campaign van.

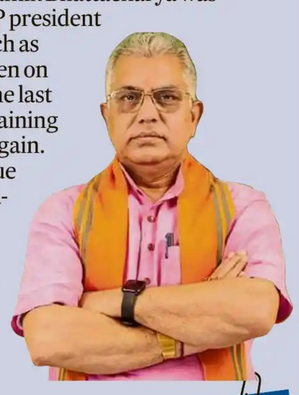
E T B SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Asset jump
TMC candidate and West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu has declared total assets worth Rs 4.41 crore in his 2026 Assembly election affidavit, up from Rs 3.08 crore in 2021. His income rose steadily from Rs 4.91 lakh in 2020–21 to Rs 25.63 lakh in 2024–25. Basu owns movable assets of Rs 3.16 crore, including investments in fixed deposits and bank balances, and an immovable asset—a 2,500 sq ft flat in Lake Town valued at Rs 1.25 crore. The affidavit states he and his wife have no loans or liabilities, do not own a car, and have no pending criminal cases against them. PTI

Meet the leader

Dilip Ghosh
BJP
Kharagpur Sadar

Former state BJP president Dilip Ghosh is regarded as one of the leaders who played a major role in expanding the party's organisational base in West Bengal. A former RSS pracharak, Ghosh led the BJP's growth phase in the state between 2015 and 2021, which culminated in the party winning 18 Lok Sabha seats in 2019. He was elected MP from Medinipur in that election. His political trajectory, however, saw challenges after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, when he lost after being shifted from Medinipur to Bardhaman–Durgapur. He had also publicly expressed differences over organisational decisions under then-president Sukanta Majumdar, highlighting internal issues within the state unit. The strains became more visible when Ghosh attended the inauguration of the Jagannath temple in Digha, with his newly-wedded wife, at the invitation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The episode drew criticism from sections of the party's leadership. After Samik Bhattacharya was appointed state BJP president in 2025, leaders such as Ghosh, who had been on the sidelines over the last few years, started gaining prominence once again. BJP leaders continue to view his organisational experience and grassroots connect as important as the party prepares to take on the assembly elections.



Trivia

For the first time in India's electoral history, Assembly elections in two constituencies, Aravakurichi and Thanjavur, were rescinded by the Election Commission over the rampant use of money power to influence voters. The elections, scheduled for May 16, 2016, were cancelled on the eve of polling, first postponed to May 23 and then to June 13, before being called off again. Polling in the two seats was eventually held on November 19, 2016. The EC cancelled the May polling after ruling that the electoral process in both constituencies had been seriously vitiated. The decision followed reports from election officials who seized large amounts of cash and gifts allegedly meant for distribution to voters by candidates of both the AIADMK and DMK. By-elections to the RK Nagar Assembly seat in 2017 and the Vellore Lok Sabha seat in 2019 were also rescinded due to the use of money power.

Disenfranchised in Nadia: Hundreds await justice after voter roll jolt

Several allege that minor spelling errors erased decades of voting rights

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NADIA, DHNS

Lying on his bed, Mohammed Derach Ali Sheikh keeps asking his wife, Jahanara Bibi, "Have they decided on our appeals?" Jahanara tries to reassure her ailing husband with what she has heard from their son: "They have started working and will look into our case when our turn comes."

Derach Ali served as a government teacher across West Bengal for several decades before being posted, just before his retirement, to a school in Chandanpur, his ancestral village in the Nakashipara constituency of Nadia district. "This is where I was born and grew up, just like my ancestors," he says. "I have voted in every election since I became eligible. But I don't know what will happen this time."

The 82-year-old has doubts because the Election Commission has struck both him and his wife off the electoral rolls. "We have all the documents — Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, land records, the recruitment letter my husband received, and the pension order," says Jahanara Bibi. "But we were still deleted for minor mismatches in the spelling of our names."

An appeal has been filed, and a tribunal will now decide the couple's fate. What Derach Ali and Jahanara Bibi do not yet know, however, is that they are unlikely to get a chance to vote in the assembly elections this year.

Not only them, but almost none of those disenfranchised after the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in West Bengal will be able to vote, even if appellate tribunals restore their right to vote.

Many residents say they were struck off the rolls despite holding valid documents. PHOTO CREDIT/ JAYANTA SHAW

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The electoral rolls for all 294 constituencies going to polls on April 23 and 29 were frozen after the deadlines for filing nominations expired on April 6 and 9, respectively.

Nineteen tribunals set up to hear appeals against voter deletions began functioning on Monday on the outskirts of Kolkata. The appellate tribunals were established in accordance with a Supreme Court order.

"I heard that the tribunals started working today," said Derach Ali's brother, Firoz Ali Sheikh, 73, a retired schoolteacher. He and his wife, Surjima Bibi, who had voted in many elections in the past, were also struck off the rolls due to spelling mismatches in their names.

Like Derach, Jahanara, Firoz, and Surjima, more than 840 of nearly 4,000 voters in Chandanpur have lost their voting rights since the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls began in West Bengal.

SM Mosharraf Hossain, a teacher at a local school, was appointed by the Election Commission as the Booth Level Officer to conduct the roll revision in the village. He himself has now been stripped of his voting rights, as has his father, German Sheikh, despite their ancestors being listed on the 1952 electoral rolls. "I don't have the right to vote, but I have now been appointed as a polling officer," he says.

Rajab Ali Sheikh's disabled son and daughter, Sadeq Ali Sheikh and Rajiba Khatun, have voted since 2002. They possess disability certificates issued by the state government along with other documents, yet they too have been disenfranchised.

19 states, Centre have come together to counter me: Didi

SURI/GALSI (WB), PTI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed that 19 states and the Centre have come together to counter her, and that she is single-handedly fighting for the common people.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has governments in 19 states of the country. Addressing a rally at Suri in Birbhum district, the TMC supremo said the BJP won't be able to win the West Bengal elections using forces from Delhi.

"The Trinamool Congress will secure over 226 seats in elections," she said.

She also alleged that PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme is being telecast to influence young minds.

DMK eyes AIADMK bastion in Coimbatore clash

Balaji and Velumani fight it out in Manchester of South India

V Senthil Balaji

FROM THE GROUND

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
COIMBATORE, DHNS

For the DMK, cracking the Kongu or western region — especially Coimbatore, often called the Manchester of South India — has proved difficult over the past 15 years. The party lost all 10 Assembly seats in Coimbatore in the 2021 elections to the AIADMK-BJP alliance, even as it swept every other region in the state and staged a dramatic comeback after a decade.

It was then that the DMK leadership turned to V Senthil Balaji, who had crossed over from the AIADMK-AMMK in 2018 and delivered all four Assembly seats in his home district of Karur. He was immediately made the in-charge minister for Coimbatore, where he helped the party secure the Coimbatore Corporation. Later, he was appointed the DMK's in-charge for the western region to revive the party's fortunes there.

Balaji, who hails from the entrepreneurial Gounder community spread across the region, emerged as the DMK's face after the party's top brass realised it had failed to nurture strong local leadership following the exit of CT Dhandapani and Pongalur Palanisamy.

In the April 23 election, Balaji is contesting from the Coimbatore (South) constituency, taking on the formidable AIADMK-BJP alliance in its bastion. He has shifted from his native Karur, where a stampede at a TVK rally claimed 41 lives — an incident over which the DMK MLA was recently questioned by the CBI.

The contest has now turned into a prestige battle between Balaji and SP Velumani, the AIADMK strongman. Both leaders are known for their organisational skills, groundwork, and ability to maintain strong relationships with party cadres and functionaries.

While the DMK is sweating it out to reverse its 2021 setback — despite having won the Lok Sabha polls in a three-cornered contest — Balaji has been criss-crossing the district, refusing to confine himself to his own seat. The AIADMK, meanwhile, is under pressure to defend its long-held bastion.

As the election nears, contests in most constituencies are expected to narrow down to a direct fight between the AIADMK and DMK. TVK candidates may make inroads, but they may need a campaign push from Vijay to tilt votes in their favour and build momentum on polling day.

On the campaign trail, Senthil Balaji dismissed the perception that Coimbatore was an AIADMK stronghold.

"Even in the last election, the AIADMK won several seats only by a slender margin. We have plugged the gaps this time and worked on the ground to reverse the trend," Balaji told *DH*. "We will win all 10 seats. That is what we are working for," he added.

The general perception in Coimbatore is that while the AIADMK remains strong, it may not be able to repeat its 10/10 performance. The DMK is pushing back with intensive groundwork and by taking its welfare schemes to the people.

"The AIADMK still has a lot of support in Coimbatore, courtesy Velumani, who is accessible. But in the last five years, the DMK has also reached out, and this time the electoral battle will be difficult to predict," said Aakash, a software professional.

The AIADMK appears comfortable in rural constituencies such as Sulur, Kinathukadavu, Kavundampalayam, Mettupalayam and Thondamuthur, from where Velumani is seeking re-election.

Velumani is also popular in Coimbatore city for overseeing the construction of several flyovers during the previous AIADMK regime.

Vijay is just one among the Dravidian parties: Seeman

The Naam Tamizhar Katchi (NTK), which espouses the cause of Tamil nationalism and projects itself as an alternative to Dravidian ideology, has been gaining traction among youngsters and those clamouring for change.

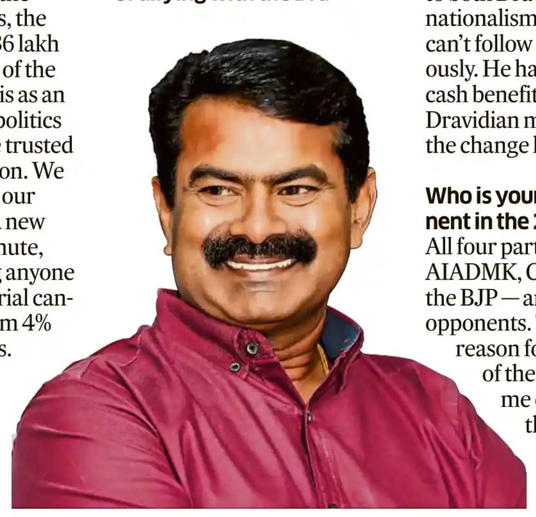
NTK chief coordinator **S Seeman** spoke to *DH*'s **E T B Sivapriyan** about his alternative politics, why he always contests elections independently, his opinion on new-entrant Vijay, and why he thinks people will one day choose Tamil nationalism over Dravidianism. Edited excerpts:

The NTK's vote share has risen from 1% in 2016 to 8.22% in 2024. How do you perceive your growth?
People vote for parties like the NTK, which present alternative politics, but cash-for-votes forces them to gravitate towards the Dravidian parties at the last minute. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the NTK secured about 36 lakh votes, which is 8.22% of the total votes. We see this as an endorsement of our politics since so many people trusted us in a national election. We achieved this despite our party being allotted a new symbol at the last minute, and us not projecting anyone as the prime-ministerial candidate. If we went from 4% to 8% in just five years. Why can't it rise to 16%? And since this is a state election, people cannot overlook the NTK.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

The NTK has fielded six Brahmin candidates, which no other party does in Tamil Nadu. And you have even fielded Dalit candidates in General seats. Why?
When I introduced all 234 candidates on the dais, you would have seen 117 men and 117 women. We should have given tickets to seven Brahmin candidates, but could field only six; likewise, Muslims should have been given 15 tickets, but we could field only 10. Why should I not field Brahmins? Is it because the Dravidian ideology is against them? Then I will field them all the more. I have fielded Dalit candidates in General seats as I believe in equality and social justice.

Have you ever thought of allying with the Dravidian or national parties?
We will never ally with established parties as alliances push political parties to compromise on their principles. Moreover, how can I align with the DMK and AIADMK, who are morally and ideologically bankrupt? Both parties are only into competitive populism; they don't compete in driving growth to the state. If one gives Rs 5,000, the other promises Rs 10,000. If one offers free buses for women, the other does it for men as well. Where is the vision here?



Your opinion on actor Vijay and his TVK?
The real fight for an alternative to the Dravidian majors is between the NTK and the TVK. I expected more from Vijay. He should have prepared himself for at least five years before entering politics. But the real letdown is that he says he subscribes to both Dravidian and Tamil nationalism ideologies. One can't follow both simultaneously. He has also promised cash benefit transfers like the Dravidian majors. Where is the change here?

Who is your primary opponent in the 2026 polls?
All four parties — the DMK, AIADMK, Congress, and the BJP — are my political opponents. They are the reason for the condition of the state today. Show me one good scheme that directly benefits the people other than cash transfers.

Kerala CEC says delay in publishing voter turnout data not deliberate

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As criticisms over the delay in publishing the final data on voter turnout get sharper, Kerala Chief Electoral Officer Rathan Kelkar has said the delay was not deliberate.

Kelkar came out with the clarification close on the heels of opposition leader V D Satheesan sending a letter to the Election Commission of India, expressing concerns that the delay in publishing the constituency-wise details of voter turnout could affect the transparency of the conduct of elections.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

Satheesan urged that the voter turnout at polling stations as well as the details of postal votes be promptly published.

Kelkar said there was no deliberate delay and the final data would be formally published after the counting as postal ballots still keep on coming.

"The turnout at polling booths was 78.27%, and considering the total postal ballots received so far, the total voter turnout as of now is 79.63%," he said, adding that the final percentage could further increase.

Details of the votes polled at each booth were handed over to the agents of candidates and representatives soon after the polling on April 9.

SIR effect
Kelkar, who earlier anticipated that the voter turnout may touch an all-time high of 90%, said the reason for that not happening needs to be examined. However, the increase in turnout compared to the previous general elections could be the outcome of the special intensive revision, he added.

In the 2021 Kerala Assembly elections, the total voters were 2.74 crore while the total voter turnout was 2.03 crore.

This time, while the total voters came down to 2.71 crore, the voter turnout already increased to 2.12 crore. As per the election commission the voter turnout in 2021 was 74.06%, which has now increased close to 80%.

FAMILY FEUD

KTR-Kavitha rivalry to spill onto Telangana political arena

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana is all set for a political sibling rivalry as BRS working president K T Rama Rao, popularly known as KTR, and his younger sister, former MLC K Kavitha, prepare to launch separate statewide pada yatras to galvanise public support for their respective political endeavours.

Kavitha, who recently quit the BRS, is gearing up to formally launch her party on April 25. On the same day, she is expected to announce plans for a mass outreach programme, likely in the form of a pada yatra, across Telangana aimed at taking her nascent party to the grassroots.

Operating under the banner of Telangana Jagruthi, the social organisation she founded during the Telangana statehood movement, Kavitha has been holding programmes and protests against the ruling dispensation on a range of welfare issues.

KT Rama Rao

K Kavitha

She has made no secret of her political ambitions, explicitly stating that BRS had failed to meet the expectations of the Telangana people and that she intends to emerge as the real face of the opposition.

Meanwhile, her brother KTR indicated during an informal interaction with reporters at Kyathanpally in Mancherial district on Sunday that he planned to undertake a statewide pada yatra in 2027, focused on pressing public issues.

KTR described the initiative as part of a broader effort to bridge the gap that had developed between the party and the people during BRS's decade in power.

Turbulent stretch
BRS has endured a turbulent stretch since losing power to A Revanth Reddy-led Congress in the 2023 Assembly elections. The party has suffered successive defeats in both rural and urban local body polls, with at least 10 MLAs crossing over to the ruling Congress. Cadre morale has taken a significant hit across several districts, making a revival initiative imperative.

On Sunday, KTR ruled out any tie-up with BJP, saying alliances did not work out well for the party and that "we will contest alone and return to power".

With the next Telangana Assembly elections expected towards the end of 2028, 2027 will be a critical period to shape up the electoral battleground.

BRS to revert to TRS?
KTR also hinted that the party may revert to its original name, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), though he noted that the final decision rested with party chief and his father, K Chandrasekhar Rao.

"My role as working president is only to implement his decision," he said. His remarks come just days after Kavitha pointedly observed that the TRS name was now "free and up for grabs".

"The TRS, by becoming the BRS in an effort to reach out to more states, distanced itself from the people of Telangana, and this proved costly," KTR said. "The emotional connection people had with TRS and the pink flag is inseparable," he added.

On delimitation, KTR said the proposed increase in Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies would create new political opportunities.

(With PTI inputs)

Bengaluru Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 103 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Hinge, Kishan power SRH to big win

Royals suffer first loss after famed batting comes a cropper

Page 16

Retail inflation rises in March on war pressures

Uptick driven by food, electricity, gas and other fuels

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Retail inflation rose to 3.4% in March, the highest in 13 months, as high energy costs and supply-side pressures due to the West Asia conflict weighed on food and fuel prices, official data showed on Monday.

Food inflation, which carries the largest weight in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 3.87% during the month under review. Price rise was sharper in rural areas, with rural food inflation rising to nearly 4%.

The March inflation was the highest in the financial year 2025-26. It stood at 3.21% in February and 2.74% in January.

This sequential uptick was driven by food, electricity, gas and other fuels groups. Prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), industrial diesel and premium petrol were increased in March following the surge in crude oil price in the international markets.

However, retail prices of normal petrol and diesel remain unchanged.

▸ Retail inflation, Page 6

- **Inflation** in rural areas stood at **3.63%** in March, compared to **3.11%** in urban regions

- **Food inflation** reached **3.87%**, up from **3.47%** in February
- **Gold, diamond** and **platinum** jewellery price rose by **45.92%**

B'luru hotels hike prices

Food prices have gone up by at least 5% at many restaurants in Bengaluru due to the hike in the prices of LPG and other items. Page 4

Auto LPG Rs 120/litre

Private gas stations in Bengaluru have hiked prices to as high as Rs 120 per litre, leaving the drivers in a lurch. Details on Page 4

SC questions logic of EC's Bengal discrepancy list

Rejects plea to let excluded people vote during appeal period

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday raised questions over the 'logical discrepancy' list of doubtful voters created by the Election Commission only for West Bengal, saying that "the right to vote in a country where you are born is something which is not only constitutional, it is sentimental".

The court, however, declined to permit those excluded from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision to cast their votes in the Bengal Assembly polls while their appeals remained pending before appellate tribunals.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the Bengal SIR has sandwiched voters between different constitutional authorities.

The court was hearing a writ petition by Quaraisha Yeasmin and others against their exclusion from the electoral rolls during the Bengal SIR.

At the outset, the CJI expressed reluctance to interfere, saying that the tribunals should decide on the appeals against exclusion.

One of the counsels representing the petitioners submitted that the EC was not cooperating with the appellate tribunal by producing the materials. Justice Bagchi then observed that the EC had deviated from its stand in the Bihar SIR that voters mapped in the 2002 roll need not produce documents.

▸ SIR, Page 6
Related report, Page 10

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Unless winning margin is less than exclusions, election results cannot be interfered with

- EC deviated from its stand in the Bihar SIR that voters mapped in 2002 roll need not produce documents

- When EC's counsel said people still have to prove they are the same person as in the 2002 list, the SC says: "Now you are improvising the submissions which you made earlier."
- Bengal SIR has sandwiched voters between different constitutional authorities.
- Since petitioners have approached appellate tribunals, apprehensions in the plea are premature

> Somewhere, we are getting blinded by the dust and fury of impending polls. The right to remain on a roll, the right to vote in a country where you are born is something which is not only constitutional, it is sentimental. - **Supreme Court**

Trump: Will sink Iran boats challenging Hormuz blockade

WASHINGTON/CAIRO, AGENCIES

The US military vowed to blockade all Iranian ports starting Monday in an effort to force Tehran to open the crucial Strait of Hormuz and accept a peace deal. Iran responded with threats on all ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, taking aim at US-allied countries.

US President Donald Trump warned that any Iranian attack boats that approach the naval blockade will be destroyed. In a social media message, Trump said Iran's navy was "laying at the bottom of the sea, completely obliterated", but he added that Tehran still has "fast attack ships", and warned that "if any of these ships come anywhere close to our BLOCKADE, they will be immediately ELIMINATED".

Separately, Trump said Iranian representatives had called to make a peace deal.

▸ Blockade, Page 6

Trump, Pope feud escalates

Trump posted an AI image of himself as a Jesus-like figure amid his feud with Pope Leo, who has criticised the war against Iran. The president also posted a screed against the Pope, calling him "WEAK on crime and terrible for Foreign Policy". Leo said in response he had "no fear" of the Trump administration. Details on Page 12

IMD predicts below-normal southwest monsoon

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is likely to experience a below-normal southwest monsoon, with the season potentially ending at 92% of the average rainfall, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Below-normal rainfall is likely in most states, except for Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and a few regions across the northeast, as well as pockets in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, which are expected to experience normal to above-normal rainfall.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at IMD, said quantitatively, the southwest monsoon over the country as a whole is likely to be 92% of the long-period average of 870 mm with a model error of 5% on either side. This falls under the "below normal" category, according to the weather bureau.

▸ Monsoon, Page 6

Concerning

TCS to probe sexual assault charges

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday announced a high-level investigation into the alleged sexual harassment allegations at the Nashik campus of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Aarthi Subramanian, Chief Operating Officer at TCS, will lead this investigation. The company is treating the incident with utmost seriousness as the allegations are gravely concerning, he said. P 14

Rising anger

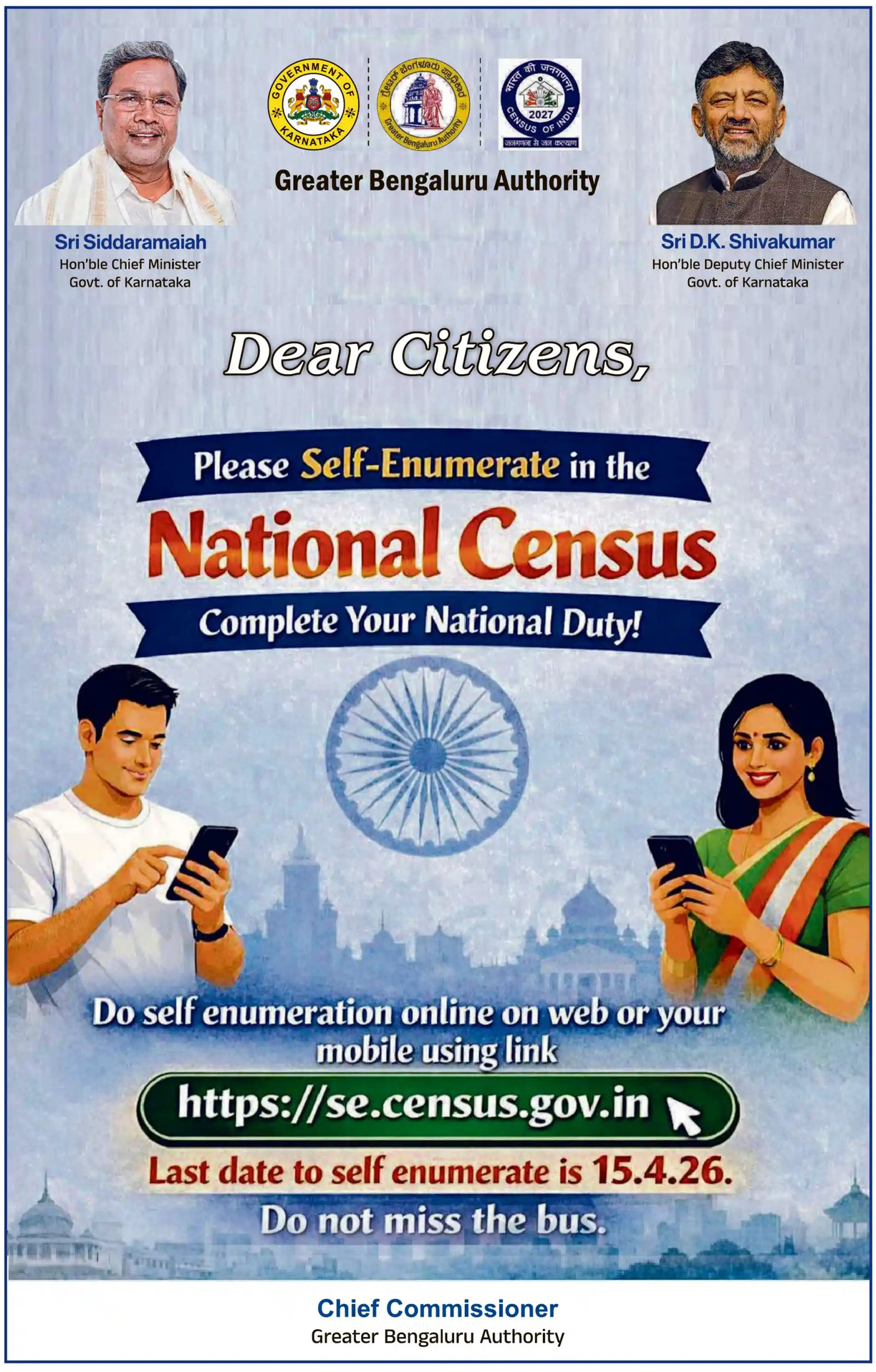
Workers' protest turns violent in UP

The protest by workers of private companies in Noida demanding higher salaries and other benefits turned violent on Monday, with protesters setting vehicles ablaze, damaging office property and engaging in stone-pelting. Police had to use tear gas shells and carry out a lathicharge to disperse the crowd. Around 50 protesters were taken into custody, said the police. P 10

Bengal case

Coal 'scam': ED arrests I-PAC director

In a major action ahead of the Bengal polls, the ED on Monday arrested Vinesh Chandel, a director of political consultancy firm I-PAC, in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in the state. An official said Chandel was taken into custody under the provisions of the PMLA in Delhi. He is expected to be produced before a special court, where the ED will seek Chandel's custodial remand. P 7



KRUPANIDHI
PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Results 2025-26
Congratulations!
KRUPANIDHI II PUC STUDENTS
Chikkabellandur Campus 99.61%
Koramangala Campus 99.21%
363 Distinctions, 95% First Classes
II PU 2025-26 TOPPERS
DEEPIKA M SCIENCE 99.17%
SANJANA COMMERCE 99.00%
SYEDA BATOOL COMMERCE 99.00%
ANUSHA V N SCIENCE 98.50%
RAKSHITHA R COMMERCE 98.50%
TANISHKA V COMMERCE 98.50%
YASHASWINI M SCIENCE 98.33%
SHRUTHI N COMMERCE 98.17%
L M NANDHITHA SCIENCE 97.83%
PENAGALURI BHAVYA SCIENCE 97.83%
ANSHU KUMARI COMMERCE 97.67%
JAYASHREE M COMMERCE 97.67%
TEJASWINI B S COMMERCE 97.67%
HARSHITHA R COMMERCE 97.33%
CHANDANA S SCIENCE 97.33%
MOHIT S GUJARI COMMERCE 97.17%
RASHMI M COMMERCE 97.17%
AYFUNA M K COMMERCE 97.00%
INCHARA U COMMERCE 97.00%
SYEDA LAIQHA COMMERCE 96.83%
SINCHANA A COMMERCE 96.83%
AMULYA M COMMERCE 96.67%
DARSHAN K SCIENCE 96.50%
KISHORE V SCIENCE 96.17%
SHREYA V SCIENCE 96.17%
TULSI SUTHAR COMMERCE 96.17%
PRASHANTH G SCIENCE 96.17%
NOOR SUHANA COMMERCE 96.00%
SHODHAN SCIENCE 96.00%
KIRAN C A COMMERCE 96.00%
SRIHITA COMMERCE 96.00%
RAKSHA V SCIENCE 95.83%
MADHUMITA M COMMERCE 95.83%
PENAGALURI BHAVITHA SCIENCE 95.83%
MONICA Y COMMERCE 95.67%
SANIKA V K COMMERCE 95.67%
ANSHUMAN GUPTA SCIENCE 95.67%
RANJITHA N SCIENCE 95.67%
VISHESH SHARMA COMMERCE 95.50%
ANURAG SHARMA SCIENCE 95.50%
MOHAMMED FAIZ SCIENCE 95.50%
THOSHITHA S SCIENCE 95.50%
DEVI SHREE N COMMERCE 95.33%
SHAIK AIZAN COMMERCE 95.33%
SOWBHAGYA L COMMERCE 95.33%
SAHANA N R SCIENCE 95.33%
SANGAMESH APAROJI SCIENCE 95.33%
SUNITHA COMMERCE 95.17%
S A VAISHNAVI SCIENCE 95.17%
DHANYA S COMMERCE 95.00%
DIKSHITA S COMMERCE 95.00%
M HARSHITH COMMERCE 95.00%
MANOJ M HADAPADA COMMERCE 95.00%
NEHA S COMMERCE 95.00%
DHANANJAY SAHU SCIENCE 95.00%
SUBHADEEP SCIENCE 95.00%
ALEENA ROY COMMERCE 95.00%
ROHAN SHETTY SCIENCE 95.00%
MUZAMIL COMMERCE 94.83%
SHIVAKUMAR COMMERCE 94.83%
SHRUSHANT A COMMERCE 94.83%
AKSHAYA S COMMERCE 94.67%
AMRUTHA C COMMERCE 94.67%
DHARSHINI M COMMERCE 94.67%
SANJANA G COMMERCE 94.67%
MAHESH KUMAR R SCIENCE 94.67%
R PUJITHA COMMERCE 94.67%
B SUJAL REDDY COMMERCE 94.50%
V LAVANYA COMMERCE 94.50%
YASHAWANTH A COMMERCE 94.50%
HARSHITH R SCIENCE 94.50%
MD REHAN SCIENCE 94.50%
SHASHANK V KUMAR SCIENCE 94.50%
VISHNU SAI R SCIENCE 94.50%
Admissions Open for 2026-27
+91 7848 000 123 admission@krupanidhi.edu.in www.krupanidhi.edu.in
CHIKKABELLANDUR CAMPUS: #12/1, Chikkabellandur, off Sarjapur Rd, Bengaluru 560035 | +91 7022049950
KORAMANGALA CAMPUS: #5, Sarjapur Rd, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560034 | +91 6366824513

4 kittens, 2 furious families & a police team's visit to Seshadripuram

BENGALURU, DHNS

A dispute over a cat's romantic adventures escalated into a full-blown neighbourhood confrontation in Seshadripuram, forcing the police to step in.

The trouble began when a resident's male cat allegedly impregnated a neighbour's female cat. When the female cat delivered four kittens, the owner held the neighbour's cat responsible and confronted them.

What started as a verbal exchange soon turned into a heated argument, with both sides hurling abuses. A neighbour alerted Namma 112. The situation worsened when the agitated owner of the female cat allegedly picked up a newborn kitten and threw it near the neighbour's house. The quarrel drew other residents as both families refused to back down, leaving the kittens distressed.

The owner of the male cat then alerted the police. A patrolling team from the Seshadripuram police station reached the spot and counselled both parties.

No formal complaint has been lodged.

The police team warned the families that their shouting was disturbing other residents and asked them to maintain peace.

Metro timings extended for IPL night matches

BENGALURU, DHNS: Metro train services will run for extended hours when the Royal Challengers Bengaluru plays its home IPL matches on April 15 and 24.

In a statement, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said the last train services from all terminal stations would be extended beyond 11 pm for the two night matches.

The last train from Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Bommasandra will depart at 12.30 am, from Challaghatta, Silk Institute and Madavara at 12.45 am, and from RV Road at 2 am. The last train from Majestic in all four directions will be at 1.30 am.

However, metro train timings will not be extended for the day-and-night IPL match scheduled for April 18.

The digital IPL match tickets include Namma Metro QR codes for two-way travel. The BMRCL has made additional parking arrangements at 43 metro stations. On match days, parking is available at a flat rate of Rs 30 for two-wheelers and Rs 60 for cars (valid until metro services close).

Cricket fans entering the stadium through gates on Cubbon Road should use the Cubbon Park metro station, while those using the Link Road entry gates should use the MG Road station.

The BMRCL said it might regulate or temporarily close station entry points for passenger safety and security.

BMTC buses for IPL

The BMTC will operate special bus services from M Chinnaswamy Stadium for fans attending the IPL match on April 15, 18 and 24.

- **G-2:** Sarjapur
- **G-3:** Electronics City (Hosur Road)
- **G-4:** Bannerghatta National Park
- **G-7:** Janapriya Township (Magadi Road)
- **G-10:** RK Hegde Nagar Yelahanka via Nagawara and Tannery Road
- **317G:** Hoskote
- **13:** Banashankari

BMW among four cars gutted in garage fire

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four cars, including a BMW, were gutted in a fire at a garage in Kodichikkanahalli under Bommanahalli police station limits on Sunday night.

The property loss is estimated at Rs 50 lakh.

The garage, Dreamz Cars, belongs to Suresh. An Ola Electric scooter parked inside is suspected to have triggered the blaze after smoke emanated from its battery around 9.30 pm. The fire spread to the garage and adjoining office premises. Two fire tenders were pressed into service, and the blaze was doused after nearly two-and-a-half hours. No casualties were reported.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.0°C
Minimum	24.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	59%
Sunset (Apr 14)	6:32 pm
Sunrise (Apr 15)	6:09 am
Moonrise	2:56 am
Moonset	2:52 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SWM user fee complicates property tax filing

Serves no purpose, say residents' associations

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

For thousands of apartment owners in Bengaluru, filing property tax this year comes with a new set of questions related to solid waste management user fees that many found difficult to answer or impossible to verify.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) revised its property tax portal to capture the quantity of bulk waste generated across the city.

Apartment associations, however, have flagged serious gaps and errors in the process.

When residents attempt to pay property tax, the portal first asks them to identify whether they qualify as bulk waste generators. The classification applies to apartment complexes with more than 100 dwelling units, commercial spaces generating over 100 kg of waste per day, or sites larger than 5,000 sqm.

Bulk waste generators must then choose one of three waste management options: on-site processing, engagement of an authorised waste processor, or neither.

The complexity deepens at the next step, where residents must declare daily waste generation figures broken down into wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste, along with quantities processed. The requirement applies to users who select any of the three options.

Where neither on-site nor authorised processing is declared, the portal calculates the SWM user fee — charged alongside property tax — by multiplying self-declared daily waste figures across 365 days.

Valli Srinivasan, a governing council member of the Bangalore Apartments Federation, said the requirement will produce speculative answers and serves no purpose.

"There is no system of measuring how much waste each flat generates on a daily basis. These numbers are, at best, rough estimates," she said, adding that in most complexes waste is collected at one central point and its disposal managed by the association.

In a video posted on its social media platforms, BAF pointed out that the portal does not accept entries of less than one kilogram for certain waste categories, even though actual per-household generation — particularly sanitary or special care waste — can be far lower.

A separate question — 12.D of the SWM section — does not allow users to enter daily waste generation below 100 kg. This restriction inflates the property tax bill sharply.

'Issue over-exaggerated; will fix minor gaps'

Munish Moudgil

Speaking to *DH*, GBA Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said the concerns are being exaggerated.

"As per the information shared by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML), there are about 5,200 bulk waste generators in the city. This is disproportionately a smaller number as compared to 25 lakh properties. We will, however, reduce the number of questions, if needed," he said.

A BAF member noted that Rs 12 per kg is three times the SWM user fee paid by independent houses, and urged the GBA to restore an earlier system where the portal offered a bulk waste generator option and allowed the BSWML to verify the claim.

MP urges revival of Hosakerehalli Lake

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath has written to civic authorities seeking rejuvenation of Hosakerehalli Lake.

He wrote to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru West City Corporation based on requests from the Kerepalya Residents' Welfare Association and the Hosakerehalli Lake Conservation Forum.

Pointing out that the lake is filled with silt and weeds, he sought installation of a sluice gate for flood mitigation, desilting, creation of walking tracks and planting of saplings along the boundaries to protect the waterbody.

The letter, carrying petitions from the two associations, requested GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao to issue suitable directions to the zonal engineers concerned.

The associations said rejuvenation would benefit residents of Srinivasa Nagar, Krishnappa Layout, Hosakerehalli, Durgaparameshwari Nagar and Pushpagiri Nagar, among others.

Hosakerehalli Lake

> The lake has been in a pathetic condition since 2015 due to apathy and neglect. We had requested the officials to accord permission for undertaking volunteer activities. Regrettably, so far, no such permission has been given.
> **Hosakerehalli Lake Conservation Forum**
> (in a letter to the MP)

"The lake has been in a pathetic condition since 2015 due to apathy and neglect. We had requested the officials to accord permission for undertaking volunteer activities. Regrettably, so far, no such permission has been given," the Hosakerehalli Lake Conservation Forum said in its letter to the MP.

Some residents said the corporation or the GBA should allow rejuvenation through CSR funds if funding is a constraint.

Late-night cafe assault caught on video

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a late-night incident on Sunday, a group of seven to eight people allegedly assaulted and injured three men outside a cafe in Kanaka Nagar, in east Bengaluru, triggering brief panic in the area.

The victims were reportedly smoking with a woman when the group turned violent without any apparent provocation and began attacking them. The assailants also smashed the victims' mobile phones, but did not harm the woman. A local resident recorded the incident on video and alerted the police.

The footage was widely circulated on social media.

Although none of the victims filed a formal complaint, DJ Halli police took cognisance of the video and registered a suo motu case against unidentified persons.

A police officer said efforts are on to trace the attackers. Preliminary investigations suggest the suspects may have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Two probationary RTO inspectors caught taking bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lokayukta police trapped two probationary IMV inspectors of the Nelamangala RTO while allegedly accepting a bribe on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Kiran SP and Dinesh Kumar DK, probationary inspectors from the Nelamangala RTO. A middleman, Ramesh, was also arrested for facilitating bribe collection.

Officials said the inspectors were conducting vehicle checks on NICE Road, during which they allegedly demanded money from motorists for not having proper documents. They allegedly collected bribes in cash and through UPI transactions, often using the middleman to receive the money. They had earlier collected Rs 3,000 through cash and digital payment.

Based on a complaint filed by Prashanth, Lokayukta officials laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting Rs 300 as bribe.

REMEMBERING THE ICON

Azim Premji varsity to honour Dr Rajkumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Azim Premji University will host a series of events celebrating Dr Rajkumar's legacy, on April 17 and 24 in Bengaluru.

The programme on April 17 will be held at the Indian Institute of World Culture in Basavanagudi, featuring film, music, discussions, and personal recollections.

Singers Mohan Krishna and Gowri will render songs from Dr Rajkumar's films, followed by a screening of the short documentary 'An Analysis of a Phenomenon by Maya Chandra'.

Mark the dates

APRIL 17
At Basavanagudi
Venue: Indian Institute of World Culture

APRIL 24
At Koramangala
Venue: Indian Heritage Academy

Senior journalist R Manjunath Chavan will speak on the personality of Mutturaju, while Dr Sowmya Manjunath Chavan will examine the continuing relevance of messages from his films. Family members, including Lakshmi, SA Govindaraj, Poornima Ramkumar, Vinay Rajkumar and Dhanya Ramkumar, will be present.

The second programme — 'Annavaru, Annavare! — will be held at the Indian Heritage Academy in Koramangala on April 24. It will feature renditions of more of Rajkumar's songs along with readings from 'Kathanaayakana Kathe', presenting his voice and life story.

A new episode of 'Noorakke Nooru Karnataka' on Rajkumar by lyricist Jayanth Kaikini will also be launched for Radio Azim Premji University.

PUBLIC HOMAGE

Artistes with elephant 'Lakshmi' from the Karibasaveshwara Mutt, Tumakuru, carry the portrait of Dr BR Ambedkar in a howdah during rehearsals ahead of Ambedkar Jayanti at Freedom Park on Monday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Folk artistes join a procession from the Vidhana Soudha to Freedom Park, carrying a portrait of Ambedkar on the eve of his 135th birth anniversary. PTI

Recall PRR tenders, farmers' association tells BDA

Cites incomplete land acquisition and pending clearances

BENGALURU, DHNS

The PRR Raitha Haagu Niveshanadarara Sangha on Monday urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to recall the tenders for the first package of the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor, stating that the project has not completed mandatory requirements.

The farmers' body noted that the authorities have neither acquired 80% of the required land nor obtained environmental clearances for the project.

In a representation to the Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd, which is implementing the project, the group said the government had mandated that tenders be called only after 80% of the land is fully acquired.

"What we know is that the BDA issued a preliminary notification for a 3.5-km link road to NICE on Tumakuru Road in 2022. So far, it has not issued a final notification," said association president Mavallipura Srinivas. He also pointed out that several cases are pending in the Karnataka High Court.

"The BDA has also not received environmental clearance for the project. The detailed project report has not been finalised either," he said, urging the authorities to recall the tenders.

Key issues

- The 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor project has come under criticism from farmers' groups.
- PRR Raitha Haagu Niveshanadarara Sangha claims mandatory conditions have not been met before issuing tenders. They are demanding a halt and review of the tender process until all legal and procedural requirements are fulfilled.

Major concerns

- Less than 80% land acquisition completed (required before tendering)
- Environmental clearance not obtained
- Detailed Project Report (DPR) not finalised
- Final notification pending for a 3.5-km link road on Tumakuru Road
- Multiple cases pending in the Karnataka High Court

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Ambedkar Jayanti: Guest: Ashok Dalwai, Chairman: Prof Vishwanath; Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University; 8.30 am.

Ambedkar Jayanti: Chairman: Jayakar SM; Chief Guest: Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, Banjagere Jayaprakash; Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi; from 9.30 am onwards.

135th Birth Anniversary of BR Ambedkar and Presentation of BR Ambedkar Award: Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar; Dedication of Ambedkar's Statue: HC Mahadevappa, Presence: Basavaraj Horatti, UT Khader, Chairmanship: Rizwan Arshad; Organised by Social Welfare Department; Vidhana Soudha; 10 am.

Ambedkar Jayanti: Presence: M Gurumurthy, S Rudresh, K Kannan; Organised by Federation of Indigenous Organisations; Dr BR Ambedkar Park, RR Nagar; 10 am.

Ambedkar Festival: Bodhi Tree and Bodhivardhana Award Presentation; Veerabhadrappa; Spurtidham, Magadi Main Road; 11 am.

State-level Dalit and Backward Minority Unity Conference as part of Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti: Organisation Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti; Lidkar Bhavan, Vasanthnagar; 11.30 am.

Ambedkar Jayanti, 'Ambedkar Vada' book Release: Purushottama Bilidmale; Organised by Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti; Vidhana Soudha; 6 pm.

58th Annual Children's Summer Vacation Education and Entertainment Camp: Inaugural Ceremony; Chairman: K Mohan Dev Alva; Akhil Karnataka Children's Association, Kote; 3 pm.

Charitable Lecture: On the topic of 'Kathopanishad'; NS Sridharamurthy; Chaired by Byramangala Ramegowda; Organised by BM Shri Foundation, NR Colony; 5 pm onwards.

Fire Service Week and Fire Martyrs' Day: Guest: Prashant Kumar Thakur; Organisation: Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of State Disaster Response Force; RA Mundkur Fire and Emergency Services Training Academy, Bannerghatta Road; 9 am onwards.

CULTURAL

88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Music Concert by Srinivas Sharma and Team, Hindustani Classical Music Concert by Venkatesh Kumar, Satish Kolli, Keshav Joshi; Sri Ramseva Mandali Ramanavami Celebration Trust; Kote High School Campus, Chamarajpet; 4.30 pm.

33rd Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Kalyanapuram Aravind (vocals), HK Venkataram (violin), Arunaprakash Krishnan (mridanga), GS Ramanujam (ghata); Srivani Kala Kendra, Basaveshwaranagar; from 6.30 pm.

26th Year Discourse Channel: Bhagavata's Message: Ashokacharya Joshi; Organised by Cultural Centre, Ragigudda Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust, Jayanagar; 6.30 pm.

'Samagra Mahabharata' Discourse: Vyasanakere Prabhanjanacharya; Poornaprajna Vidyapeeth, Katriguppe Main Road; from 6.30 pm onwards.

'Huchcharaya Huchharu' Drama Performance: Story and Dialogues by Manoj MR, Team: Payana; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli, from 7.30 pm onwards.

Gym trainer dies by suicide; kin alleges blackmail

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old gym trainer allegedly died by suicide in Nelamangala Town on Saturday night.

The family of the deceased alleged that blackmail by a married woman drove him to take the extreme step. He had made a video call to the woman, with whom he was allegedly involved, to inform her that he was going to end his life.

The deceased has been identified as Dileep, a resident of Vajarahalli.

Police said the incident occurred around 11.15 pm after he returned home from the gym and went into his room.

After some time, his sister Vinutha received a message on Instagram from a woman stating that her brother had decided to end his life and asking her to check on him. The family broke open the door, found him hanging, and alerted the police.

Police said preliminary investigations revealed that Dileep had met the 42-year-old married woman at a gym, and the acquaintance soon developed into a relationship.

The woman, who had delivered a baby boy eight months ago, allegedly pressured him to continue the relationship. However, Dileep had recently got engaged to another woman. On learning about this, the accused woman allegedly objected to the marriage and threatened that she would not allow him to marry anyone else. Distressed over the developments, Dileep took the extreme step.

Based on a complaint filed by his father, Ramesh, Nelamangala Town police have registered a case of abetment of suicide. The accused woman is absconding, police added.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

KSRTC wins 3 national awards

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said it had won three national-level awards at the AdWorld Showdown Awards for Best Customer Acquisition and Retention (for bus branding), Best Use of Technology for AWATAR 4.0 (with UPI facility), and for its human resources and health initiatives.

MP Srihari Babu, Divisional Controller, Puttur Division, and SS Dasharath, Divisional Controller, Hassan Division, received the awards on behalf of the KSRTC at a ceremony held in New Delhi, a news release said.

Yeshwantpur-Kakolu BMTC bus service

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will introduce the following non-AC bus service on Wednesday:

251A: Yeshwantpur TTMC to Kakolu via Jalahalli Cross, Chikkabanavara, Hesaraghatta, TB Cross, Mutkur, Linganahalli, Koluvarayanahalli, and Seethakempanahalli Cross.

One bus will be deployed on this route. The service from Yeshwantpur will depart at 6.45 am and 3.20 pm. The service from Kakolu will be at 8.30 and 5.30 pm.

B'luru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper train to run via Kalaburagi

To have brand new coaches; travel time 16 hours

BENGALURU, DHNS

It's confirmed. The Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper train approved recently will run via Kalaburagi with a travel time of at least 16 hours, authorities said.

Dharwad MP and union minister Pralhad Joshi as well as Bangalore Central MP, P C Mohan, tweeted on Monday that the premium train was planned via the Kalyana Karnataka region (Kalaburagi).

Citing his telephonic conversation with the Railway Board chairman, Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi said brand new coaches were being readied and the target was to start the service by July-end.

In addition, Joshi and Mohan said a separate superfast train connecting Bengaluru and Mumbai via Hubballi was also planned and would be upgraded to the Vande Bharat sleeper.

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru, confirmed to *DH* that the train would operate via Kalaburagi because it was a shorter route.

The travel time will be at least 16 hours, he added. The announcement fulfills a long-pending demand to connect two of India's most important cities by a dedicated superfast train. Currently, only one dedicated train (Udyan Express) operates on the route, covering 1,136 km in approximately 24 hours.

The announcement fulfills a long-pending demand to connect two of India's most important cities by a dedicated superfast train.

Public representatives and railway activists demanded that the superfast train run via Hubballi to serve the Karnataka hinterland better. However, the relatively longer route (1,216 km), and single tracks and speed restrictions in some sections would have pushed the travel time to about 18 hours. In December 2025, the Railway Board approved a biweekly train between Bengaluru and Mumbai via Hubballi with a 24-hour travel time. However, the proposal was put on hold following public criticism. While railway authorities eventually decided on the Kalaburagi route, they also approved a superfast train via Hubballi to serve Karnataka better.

K N Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Vedike welcomed both trains but wished the Vande Bharat sleeper would run via Hubballi. He agreed that the Kalaburagi route would be faster because it was fully electrified, doubled and most sections supported a top speed of 130 kmph.

A 30.04-km section between Makajipalli and Dharmavaram, part of the Penukonda-Dharmavaram doubling project, was completed in February.

New secretary for health department

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government transferred Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, on Monday.

Gupta, an IAS officer from the 1997 batch, has not been assigned a new posting. He will be replaced by Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey, a 1998-batch IAS officer serving as Principal Secretary, Revenue Department (Disaster Management, Stamps and Registration and Social Security). Salma K Fahim, a 2006-batch officer presently serving as Secretary, Labour Department, has been given the concurrent charge as Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, will succeed Pandey as Secretary, Revenue Department (Disaster Management, Stamps and Registration and Social Security).

Manoj Kumar Meena, a 2003-batch officer serving as Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, will succeed Pandey as Secretary, Revenue Department (Disaster Management, Stamps and Registration and Social Security).

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Trains diverted

BENGALURU, DHNS: Due to the pre-non-interlocking and non-interlocking works in connection with Channasandra yard remodelling in the city, the following trains will be diverted: Train number 16593 KSR Bengaluru-Nanded Express will skip Bengaluru Cantonment from April 15 to May 2. Train number 12647 Coimbatore-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express, journey commencing on April 19 and 26, will run via KR Puram, SMVT Bengaluru, Yeshwantpur, Yelahanka, and Dharmavaram.

Train number 12785 Kacheguda-Ashokapuram Express, journey commencing from April 29 to May 2, will run via Yelahanka, Yeshwantpur and KSR Bengaluru, skipping Bengaluru Cantonment.

Train number 12786 Ashokapuram-Kacheguda Express, journey commencing from April 30 to May 2, will run via KSR Bengaluru, Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka, skipping Bengaluru Cantonment station.

Spl train to Jalpaiguri

The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate a special train connecting Bengaluru with Jalpaiguri (West Bengal). Train number 06567 will run on April 17 and 24, departing from Yeshwantpur at 7 am and reaching New Jalpaiguri at 7 am on the third day.

In the return direction, train number 06568 will depart from New Jalpaiguri on April 20 and 27 at 8.30 am and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 9.55 am on the third day.

ONGC
ENERGY: Now AND Next

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR EMPANELMENT AT BENGALURU

Medical Services, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Chennai invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from eligible healthcare institutions for **empanelment for a fixed period of three (03) years**, from **01.07.2026 to 31.03.2029**.

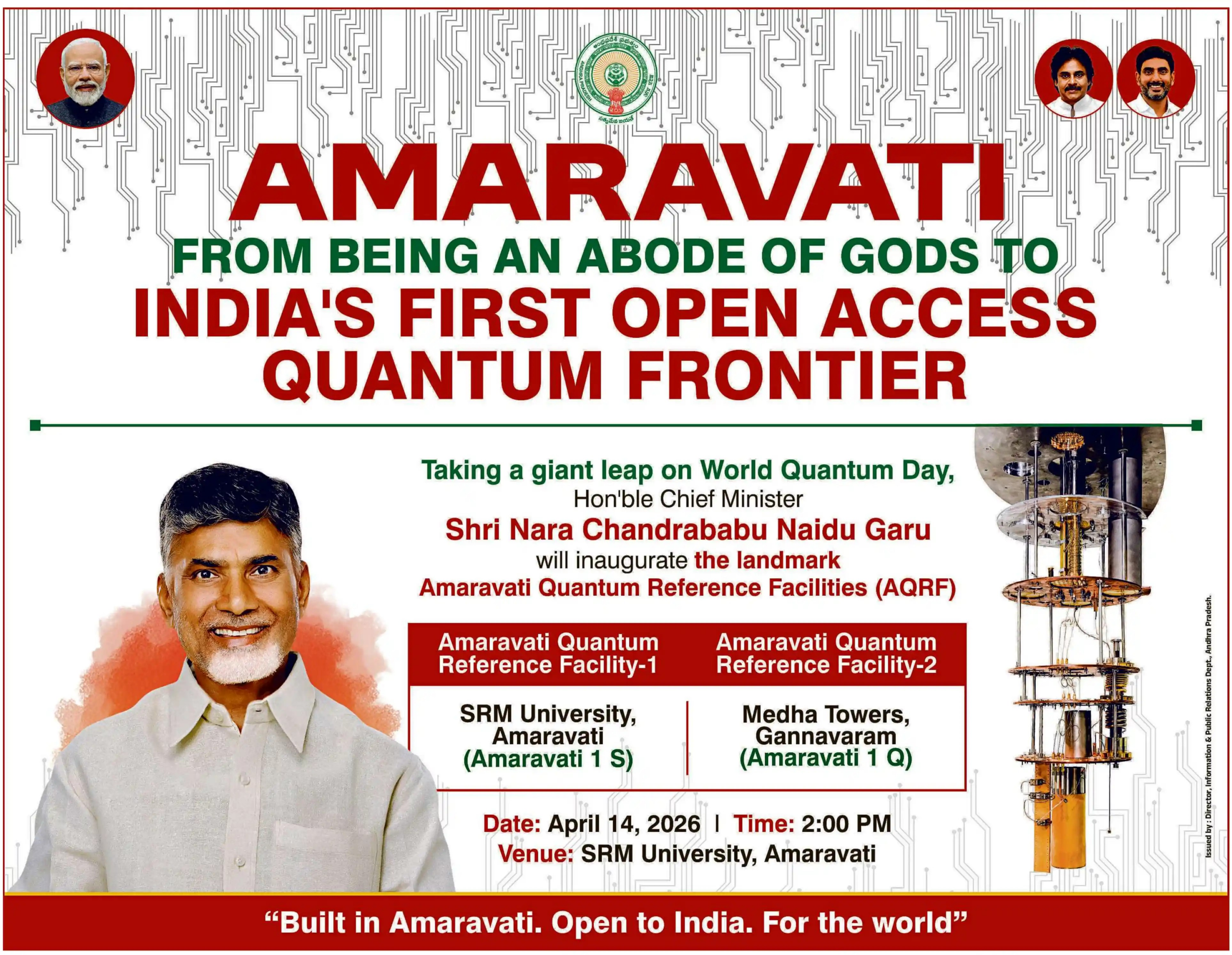
The empanelment is open to the following category of healthcare institutions located at **BENGALURU**:

- Eye Care Centres

The **detailed EOI notification** is available on the **ONGC India website**: **https://www.ongcindia.com** / published on dated 07.04.2026

Interested institutions/centres are advised to carefully read the detailed notification available in the website and submit their applications with all required details & documents **on or before 19.04.2026**.

Medical Services, Cauvery Basin
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
8th Floor, CMDA Tower II, Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai, Tamilnadu


AMARAVATI
FROM BEING AN ABODE OF GODS TO
INDIA'S FIRST OPEN ACCESS
QUANTUM FRONTIER
Taking a giant leap on World Quantum Day,
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu
will inaugurate the landmark
Amaravati Quantum Reference Facilities (AQRF)
Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility-1
SRM University, Amaravati
(Amaravati 1 S)
Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility-2
Medha Towers, Gannavaram
(Amaravati 1 Q)
Date: April 14, 2026 | Time: 2:00 PM
Venue: SRM University, Amaravati
Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations Dept., Andhra Pradesh.
"Built in Amaravati. Open to India. For the world"

RAIN HAVOC

Motorists struggle to navigate the flooded road at Rani Chennamma Circle following heavy rains on Sunday night, in Hubballi on Monday. DH PHOTO/GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

2 yrs after punishing officer over forest destruction, dept does U-turn

Fails to acknowledge its own inquiry report, govt order

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Two years after issuing a government order penalising a retired forest officer for permitting felling of over 800 trees 'in forest land', the forest department has made a U-turn that the lands were not forest but private properties.

In an order dated August 20, 2024, the state government imposed a penalty on M L Manjunath, in the form of deduction of 5% of his pension for two years. The order came following a detailed charge sheet and inquiry by the Forest Department into an incident involving the felling of 808 trees in "reserved forest" under K Nidugane village gram panchayat of Madikeri taluk.

In 2020, the department served a charge sheet but did not receive a response for three months, giving way to a prolonged departmental inquiry held between May 2020 and November 2023.

The inquiry report dealt in detail with the allegations and ruled that the "charges have been proven," which led to the order imposing a penalty.

The government order explicitly mentioned the illegalities. "Tree felling permission has been given on land parcels which are 'bane' lands. Since all 'bane' lands are statutory forests, diversion of forest land for non-forest activity required the permission of the Union government. The submission made by Manjunath shows that he was aware of the land's status as a forest," it said.

SENIOR FOREST OFFICER

"The government imposed punishment on an officer based on the department's report. Now the department doesn't even acknowledge its own findings. It shows accountability is required.

The officer's claims that these were not forest lands were rejected by the inquiry committee, which also faulted him for not seeking a joint survey of the land and also questioned the failure to impose conditions, including the mandatory compensatory afforestation measures.

Volte-face before NGT

Following a report by *DH* on the penalty, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had taken up a suo motu case in September 2024. After two years, the tribunal's southern zone bench disposed of the case last week (April 9) based on a submission by the forest department that the lands were not forest.

"The properties involved - Redeemed Sago (Sagu) Aga, Sago Bane and Paradhina Bane lands - originally belonged to private individuals and are alienated 'bane' lands. They are neither reserved forests nor deemed forests or government land," it said.

Lack of accountability

Interestingly, the Forest Department repeatedly referred to the findings of the inquiry report in the government order as "claims made by the newspaper" before terming them false. "With respect to the newspaper report, it is stated that the report's claims regarding alleged diversion of forest land are incorrect," it said, adding that the "newspaper's claims" regarding lack of afforestation measures were "denied as false".

DH could not get a response from the principal chief conservator of forests (head of forest force) Meenakshi Negi on behalf of whom Karnataka's standing counsel Darpan K M submitted the affidavit.

Poacher held in Nagarahole; 2 escape during midnight raid

HUNSUR (MYSURU DIST), DHNS: Acting on specific intelligence, the Forest Department officials of the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (NTR) foiled a wildlife poaching attempt in the early hours of Sunday, April 12. While one suspect was arrested, two others escaped under the cover of darkness.

Following instructions from Seema, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Director of NTR, and Lakshmikanth, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hunsur Wildlife Sub-division, a special team was formed to monitor the Jargal beat's Woodlot forest area, under Veeranahosahalli Wildlife Range.

At approximately 2.30 am, the team spotted three individuals entering the forest illegally, on a motorcycle, armed with a gun and intending to hunt wildlife. As the forest staff moved in to detain the group, the officials captured the prime accused, identified as Ramegowda alias 'Pitil' Ramu of Hindugudlu village.

Ramegowda, was produced before the magistrate and remanded in judicial custody until April 15. Meanwhile, the Forest Department personnel have launched a manhunt for the two absconding suspects - Srinivasa alias Dasa and Yashwanth alias Rahul, both of Shindenahalli village.

Collect caste data of applicants, students, VTU tells colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has directed all affiliated institutions to collect data about the caste of all applicants and students already enrolled.

In a circular, the VTU has stated that it has received directions from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) following a report from the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on the 'Implementation of Article 15 (5) of the Indian Constitution regarding Special Provision for Reservations to Scheduled Castez/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (SCs/STs and OBCs) in Educational Institutions, including Private Educational Institutions'.

In a communication to VTU, the AICTE stated, "The Committee has observed that such data is important for higher educational institutions as well as the concerned department to understand the social composition of the student body and the prospective pool of applicants seeking admission to various programmes."

"It has also been noted that the current system of making caste declaration optional may lead to caste-blindness in the admission process. However, applicants and students may be given the option to declare that they do not have a caste identity, if they choose. All these forms may be uploaded to the institution's web portal."

Farmers' protest against wildlife safari enters 7th day

GUNDLUPET (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS: The indefinite stir by the farmers against illegal quarrying, wildlife safari and movement of tipper vehicles, entered seventh day in Gundlupet on Monday.

Led by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene members, the farmers have been staging protests in front of the Gundlupet taluk office. The farmers raised slogans against the MLA as well as district and taluk officials, asserting that the protest would continue until their demands are fulfilled.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN:U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com

E-Procurement Notice

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ supplier only for procurement of following Materials :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	25/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 Rectangular type HT & LT Coil Winding Machine	Rs 10000/- + GST	17/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	17/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	17/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	08/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	11/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
Dy.General Manager (P)

PR 377363 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (26-27)_D

CORRIGENDUM FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/FEB/03 DATED. 28-02-2026

Corrigendum No. 02 & 03 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/FEB/03, dated: 28-02-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-04** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

CE/Con/LMG Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
National Informatics Centre
A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Advertisement No. : NIC/SC-C&D/2026/3

The National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Invites online applications from interested candidates for direct recruitment to the post of Scientist-**'C' (Group 'A', Gazetted) in Pay Level-11 (Rs. 67700 – Rs. 208700)) and Scientist-'D' (Group 'A', Gazetted) in Pay Level: 12 (Rs. 78800 – Rs. 209200)**

2. Number of Vacancies: 153 Posts

Sl. No	Designation and Pay Details	Total Vacant Posts	UR	Reserved for SC / ST / OBC/EWS				Reserved for PWDs
				SC	ST	OBC (NCL)*	EWS	(Horizontal Reservation)
1	Scientist -D: Pay Level: 12 (₹/Rs.78800–209200)	12	7	1	-	3	1	NIL
2	Scientist-C: Pay Level: 11 (₹/Rs.67700–208700)	141	59	21	10	38	13	a. Locomotive Disability Including leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy (OA, OL, BL, OAL) – 02 **b. Hard of Hearing (HH) – 02** **c. Multiple disabilities from amongst (a) to (b)except deaf & blindness – 02**

*** (Non-creamy Layer)**

Note:

(i) The number of advertised posts are tentative, the actual number of posts may increase or decrease depending upon the requirement and the reservation for the posts shall be as per the policy of Government of India.

(ii) This recruitment is subject to outcome of pending original application No.(s) 229/2025 (Krishna Kumar M vs. Union of India & Ors.), O.A. No. 231/2025 (Giritharan R vs. Union of India & Ors), O.A. No. 962/2025 (Neeraj Kumar & 2 Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors), O.A. No. 1127/2025 (Kranti Gaurav & 41 Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors), O.A. No. 1409/2025 (Devender Singh & 5 Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors) and O.A. No. 458/2026 (Asiya Ahmad & 1 Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors) filed against cancellation of the recruitment process against the advertisement No. NIELIT/NIC/2022/2 for 12 posts of Scientist-D and 141 posts of Scientist-C.

3. Essential Educational Qualification:

Bachelor Degree in Engineering OR Bachelor Degree in Technology (Bachelor in Engineering or Bachelor in Technology) OR Department of Electronics and Accreditation of Computer Course B-Level OR Associate member of Institute of Engineers OR Graduate Institute of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers OR Master's Degree in Science (MSc) OR Master Degree in Computer Application OR Master's Degree in Engineering OR Technology (ME or M-Tech) OR Master's Degree in Philosophy (MPhil) in the field as mentioned below:-

Field (single or in combination)

Physics, Applied Physics, Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Electronics and Telecommunication, Radio Physics and Electronics, Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, Materials Science, Environmental Science, Computer Sciences, Computer Science and Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer, Communication, Computer and Networking Security, Computer Application, Software Engineering, Software System, Information Technology, Information Technology Management, Informatics, Computer Management, Cyber Law, Bio-informatics, Remote Sensing, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Geography, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Operations Research, Total Quality Management, Statistics, Computational Linguistics, Information Science, Information Science and Engineering, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Production, Industrial Electronics, Instrumentation, Electronics and Instrumentation, Power Electronics, Design.

4. Minimum Relevant Experience (Experience as on 21st November 2022)

Post	No of years of Experience	Description
Scientist-C Pay Level: 11 (Rs. 67700 – 208700)	4 years	In research or development in industrial and Academic Institutions or Science and Technology organizations or in both.
Scientist-D Pay Level: 12 (Rs. 78800 – 209200)	8 years	

5. Eligibility conditions complete in all respects on the crucial date for this advertisement is 21.11.2022.

6. The detailed advertisement will be available on NIC website **https://recruitment.nic.in** in due course of time.

7. NIC reserves the right to modify / cancel the recruitment process without assigning any reason.

8. Any further information corrigendum/addendum would be uploaded only on the NIC recruitment website.

CBC 06106/11/0001/2627

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS AT IISER TIRUPATI

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals, including eligible Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for faculty positions on regular basis in various disciplines.
For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in>>Careers>>Faculty.**
Date of commencement of online applications: **April 13, 2026**
The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on May 28, 2026.**
Advt. No.22/2026/IISER-T/Rect./13.04.2026
CBC 21377/12/0004/2627 **Sd/- Director**

कार्यालय :- जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, कोडरमा
Sadar Hospital Campus, Koderma (Jharkhand) 825410
E-mail:- cs.koderma4@gmail.com

संशोधित सूचना

कोडरमा जिला स्वास्थ्य विभाग अंतर्गत दवा/चिकित्सीय सामाग्री का कय किये जाने हेतु ई–निविदा सूचना 05/2026 का प्रकाशन किया गया था। जिसका PR Number 375769 है। जिसमें अपरिहार्य कारणों से अवधि विस्तार की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए ऑन लाइन निविदा की तिथि में निम्नलिखित आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है:–

Si no	Name of Work	संशोधित तिथि
1	Last Date/time for Submission of bids (Online)	23-04-2026 till 04.00 P.M
2	Bid Opening Date (Technical)	25-04-2026 at 04.00 P.M (C.S. Office Koderma)

नोटः अन्य शर्ते यथावत रहेगा।
PR 377427 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare (26-27)_D

मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी सह मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति कोडरमा

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/47/2025-26 Dated: 10-04-2026.
E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SN.1. Tender No. 60/25/5241/OT/ 251/2025-26
Closing/Opening date: 22-04-2026

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of lifting Jack 20 Ton Capacity (1Set Equal to 5 Nos) as per Specification Make: MAMCO or Similar (Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery) [Inspection· Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages:0] UVAM Linking: [Item Type: Goods (Supply) Qty-1 Set for SSE/C/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No- 653000075465. **(2)** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of 06 Years [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery, AMC Period: 6 years Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After year: 2] [Inspect Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0] Item Type: AMC. Qty-1 Nos for SSE/C/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No- 651000720180.

SN.2. Tender No. 61/25/5543/OT/252/2025-26
Closing/Opening date: 21-04-2026

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture and supply of Metal Liners for use on Sharp curve with 60 Kg rail on Curve PSC Sleeper (RDSO Drg No. confirming to RDSO 60 Kg Drg No. T-8995. IRS Spec for Metal Liners on sharp curves if any. (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UVAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty- 100000 Nos for Sr. SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam) P.L. No-601600243697.

SN.3. Tender No. 50/25/5409A/OT/253/2025-26
Closing/Opening date: 30-04-2026

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply of 48 Fiber armoured OFC cable as per RDSO SPN/TC/110/2020 (Rev.0) or latest. (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) Qty-400.00 Kilometre for SSE/TELE/Bongaigaon, NFR(Assam). Qty-210.00 Kilometre for SSE/TELE/Guwahati, NFR (Assam). Qty-190.00 Kilometre for SSE/TELE/Lumding, NFR (Assam). Qty-200.00 Kilometre for SSE/TELE/Rangiya, NFR (Assam). P.L. No- 509000396894.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website **(www.ireps.gov.in)**. Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In Case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(South Western Railway (Open Line)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 1st April, 2026

S.O. 1712(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Central Government hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the Officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for land acquisition required for the public purpose of Execution, Maintenance, Management and Operation of such Special Railway Project.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1.	Sampige Road - Arsikere Section: Proposed Construction of Differential Height RUB at Km. 138/200-300 in lieu of LC No. 82 between Karadi-Tiptur Stations.	Bandihalli (Village) Tiptur (Taluk) Tumakuru (Dist.)	Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumkur - Rayadurga Railway Project, Tumkur	Regional Commissioner, Bangalore

[F.No. W. 277/Land/RUB/TTR]
Ningappa Chandappa Chaluwadi
Dy. Chief Engineer/Road Over Bridges, Road Safety Projects
PUB/40/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Office of the Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar

E-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Irr. Div., Jasidih camp-Deoghar/SBD-IFB-03(2nd Call)/2026-27 Dt :13.04.2026

1.	Name of the work	Earthwork of Nawadih Distributary from ch. 120.00 to 196.00 and all structures including HR from ch 0.00 to 196.00
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 10,46,26,320.55 (Rs. Ten Crore Forty Six lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three hundred Twenty and Fifty five paisa) only/-
3.	Time of Completion	540 (Five Hundred Forty) Days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	16.05.2026 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	15.04.2026 01:00 P.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	097710-63448
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar

PR 377408 (Water Resource)26-27*D

II PU exams: English medium pass rate better than Kannada

Need quality study material in the vernacular: Experts

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

The II PU results have thrown up some interesting facts. While 90.63% of students in English medium have cleared the exam, only 76.41% of students passed in Kannada medium this year.

Though English medium students had outscored their counterparts in Kannada medium in terms of pass percentage last year also, this time, pass percentage of Kannada medium students has improved drastically from 56.37% to 76.41%. Similarly, pass percentage among English medium students has improved from 81.75% to 90.63%.

According to data released by the pre-university education board, of the 1,84,807 students who appeared for the exam in Kannada medium this year, 1,41,212 students have passed. In English medium, of the 4,47,393 students, 4,04,486 have passed.

A majority of students who opt for Kannada medium belong to arts stream. Some commerce students can write economics, history and business studies papers in Kannada. However, accountancy and computer science papers must be written in English.

Though there is an option for science students to write their papers in Kannada, there are not many takers for it. The number of students who opt for Kannada medium has come down from 2,08,794 to 1,84,807 in just one year. The number for English medium has increased from 4,29,011 to 4,47,393 during the same period.

Experts are of the view that the number of Kannada medium students is likely to decline further in the coming years as English medium has proved to be more beneficial for students than Kannada medium in the current competitive world.

Manjappa, retired principal of the government PU college here, told *DH* that English medium had become inevitable in today's world. So, parents in rural areas were sending their wards to English medium schools in towns. He pointed out that lecturers teaching subjects in Kannada medium need to upgrade their skills in English, so that they can teach the same subjects in English effectively.

Educationist Niranjanaradhya told *DH* that the resources and study material available in Kannada should be made more effective, so that they can write the exams in Kannada with more confidence. Language proficiency becomes highly important in examinations. So, there is a need to strengthen cognitive academic language proficiency, he said.

Youth alleges kidnap, forced sex work, gender transition racket

MYSURU, DHNS: A shocking case of kidnapping and forced gender transition has come to light after a youth from Nanjangud approached the police, alleging that he was abducted, forced to live as a transgender person, and exploited for extortion and sex work.

The victim is Anil Kumar (who was given the name Akshata by his captors), a resident of Thyagaraja Colony in Nanjangud. He has filed a complaint at the Nanjangud Town Police Station against a Mangaluru-based transgender person named Anita and her accomplices.

Kidnap

According to the complaint, the ordeal began four months ago when Anil was waiting for a bus at the Mysuru Suburban Bus Stand. He has complained that Anita and her team masked him, rendered him unconscious, and kidnapped him to Mangaluru. There, he was forcibly dressed in sarees and jewelry and compelled to pose as a transgender person to collect money (begging) from shops.

Anil claims that he was forced to collect Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 daily, which was pocketed by the gang. He further alleged that he was sent to various parts of Mangaluru and Kerala for sex work.

Document, surgery plan

The gang allegedly institutionalised his forced identity. Anil claims they managed to change his gender to 'transgender' on his Aadhaar card and obtained an official certificate from the Social Welfare Department. "They were planning to take me to Mumbai next month for a permanent sex reassignment surgery. When I realised this, I decided to escape from their clutches," Anil stated.

He alleged that when he demanded his earnings of Rs 3 lakh, Anita threatened to file a false police complaint against him for stealing Rs 5 lakh and gold ornaments.

Harassment

After escaping to his hometown, Nanjangud, Anil has complained that Anita sent other gang members to his house to create a ruckus and pressure him to return to the trade. Anil has clarified to the police that he has no gender identity issues or sexual orientation conflicts and was purely a victim of a criminal racket.

Nanjangud Town Police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

Religious Mutt qualifies as a 'legal representative' for relief under MV Act: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Mutt or the successor of the Mathadipati would be a legal representative on the death of the Mathadipati in a road traffic accident entitling the mutt for compensation, the Kalaburagi bench of the high court of Karnataka has held in a recent judgement.

A division bench comprising Justices Suraj Govindaraj and Tyagaraja N observed this while partly allowing the appeal challenging the award passed by an accident tribunal.

"The death of a Mathadipati results not merely in the cessation of an individual life, but in a tangible institutional loss, including loss of spiritual leadership, disruption of administrative continuity, diminution in institutional efficacy, and potential impact on offerings and institutional income. Such loss is neither speculative nor remote but is a direct consequence of the death and is therefore compensable in law," the division bench said.

The accident occurred on May 20, 2011. Sutreshwar Shivacharya Swamiji, who was the priest of Balehonnur Shrimad Rambhapur Veerasimhasana Mutt, Achaler, Taluk Lohara, Osmanabad district in Maharashtra, died when the jeep he was traveling met with a head-on collision with a truck.

S B Shivamurthy Shivacharya Hiremath, one of the priests of the mutt, filed the claim petition before the tribunal.

In September 2023, the Tribunal at Shorapur awarded Rs 1.2 lakh compensation, comprising Rs 1 lakh for loss of estate and Rs 20,000 for funeral expenses. The tribunal held that the successor of the mutt was not a legal representative to claim loss of dependency.

The tribunal held that a Mathadipati belonging to a religious order is an ascetic who severs all connections with the members of his natural family, and as such, there can be no dependency.

The claimant filed an appeal citing the Apex Court judgement in the Montford Brothers case which held that the term 'legal representative' not having been defined in the Motor Vehicles Act, was required to be given a wide interpretation.

The division bench noted that the severance considered by the tribunal pertains only to the material renunciation upon accepting an ascetic life, and not to a complete dissociation in all respects.

In the present case, the person who accepted the ascetic life continued to serve the needs of the Mutt and discharged managerial duties in respect of the said Mutt, the bench said.

"The error of the Tribunal lies in equating dependency exclusively with familial dependency and overlooking institutional dependency. This is contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court, which clearly recognises that the expression "legal representative" must be interpreted in a manner that advances the object of compensation law, namely, to provide restitution for loss caused by death," the bench said while modifying the compensation at Rs 4.74 lakh.

Almatti power generation station.

Almatti project generates record hydel power of 755 million units

ALMATTI (BAGALKOT DISTRICT), DHNS: The Almatti hydroelectric project has generated a record 755.6 million units (MU) of power during 2025-26, the highest ever production since its inception in 2003-04.

A target of 510 MU power was set for the previous financial year.

Chandrashekhar Dore, the Superintending Engineer of Almatti unit, said that water was released to Narayanapura dam in April 2025 and monsoon began in May itself last year.

"The officials of Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam Limited have ensured efficient water management leading to record power generation this time," he said.

The hydel project has five units with installed capcity of 55 MW each and one unit of 15 MW. The first five units have stopped power generation as of now since water level in Almatti dam diminished. The 55-MW units have been shut down for annual maintenance and they are expected to be functional by June, Chandrashekhar said.

Centre relaxes baseline data collection rule for EIA reports

BENGALURU, DHNS

Agencies, which are taking up projects that come under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification, have got a shot in the arm from the Centre which has allowed them to use the baseline environment data of the department to save time.

In a notification, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change noted that baseline environmental data forms the foundation of EIA studies as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the existing environmental conditions of the project area prior to commencement of any activity.

However, it said collection of such data from multiple Central and state government agencies, using monitoring equipment, requires "significant time and resources". To simplify the same, the ministry has allowed the user agencies to use Baseline Environment Data Information System in the Parivesh portal.

"The integrated platform will ensure availability of location-specific baseline environmental information, thereby providing credible and reliable data set, reducing dependence on primary data collection, lowering time and cost burdens and expediting the preparation of EIA reports and study appraisal of projects," it said, adding that the use of the system was voluntary and optional.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast April 14: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	37.6	21.6	00
Bidar	38.4	22.8	00
Vijayapura	40	25.5	00
Dharwad	38.2	20.4	00
Haveri	37.4	23.6	00
Kalaburagi	41.8	28.5	00
Raichur	39.6	27.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.2	25.9	00
Karwar	35.8	24.2	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.7	28.1	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.4	23.6	00
Bengaluru	34.4	24.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	37.5	24.1	00
Davangere	38.2	20.4	00
Hassan	34	15	00
Mysuru	36.4	20.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	35.2	19.4	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	34.7	17.7	00
Kolkata	37.3	26.6	00
Mumbai	34.5	24.5	00
Chennai	36.5	27	00
Pune	39.8	20.5	00
Hyderabad	39.4	26.9	00
Th'puram	35.2	25.9	00

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते

"On the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, I offer my heartfelt tribute. His struggle to bring the marginalized sections of society into the mainstream will remain an inspiration for every generation"
– Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The Nation Pays Tribute to
Bharat Ratna
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
on his
Birth Anniversary

Architect of Indian Constitution and symbol of social equality, Babasaheb's vision guides our path in making Viksit Bharat.

While realizing the dreams of Babasaheb, the Government of India is making efforts for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)

Shiksha Bhoomi - London

Deeksha Bhoomi - Nagpur

Mahaparinirvan Sthal - New Delhi

- More than **3.3 crore** tap water connections and about **3.4 crore** toilets ensure a dignified life for beneficiaries
- More than **3.1 crore** beneficiaries got Ujjwala gas connection
- **1.5 crore** pucca houses made the lives of beneficiaries easier
- **₹5.2+ lakh crore** worth Mudra loans boosted entrepreneurship
- Assured free treatment of up to **₹5 lakh** every year under the **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana**
- Compared to 2014, the budget allocation has increased more than three times—from **₹50,000 crore** to **₹1.7 lakh crore**
- Under the **Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme,** the future of approximately **9 crore** students brightened with assistance of over **₹51,000 crore**
- Financial assistance to marginalized community through **PM-SURAJ portal**
- **Financial** and **technical** support to companies run by SC community under the **Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission**
- **Helpline number 14566** for Prevention of Atrocities against SC

Chaitya Bhoomi - Mumbai

Janma Bhoomi - Mhow, M.P.

14 April 2026
9.30 AM to 12.30 PM
Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Campus
Entry Gate - Tal Katora Road, TKR-II, Near Gurudwara Rakabganj

All are cordially invited to pay floral tribute.

CBC 38101/13/0001/2627

Shobha Karandlaje hails HC ruling on Hebbal land

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union minister and MP from Bangalore North Shobha Karandlaje hailed the High Court's ruling on 'illegal' allotment of Hebbal land to a private party. "It is a huge win for people," she wrote on X.

She was among the few leaders who favoured allotting land to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, when the state government planned on allotting it to Lakeview Tourism Corporation, a private entity.

Noting that the court quashed transfer of 55 acres to "non-existent" private entity and ordered a CBI probe, she said it was "highly illogical" to allot land to a private entity when it was needed for Metro expansion.

Auto LPG crisis may push drivers' lives off balance

Private bunks hike rates; managing families a challenge

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

A month-long shortage of auto LPG in Bengaluru has escalated into a financial crisis for the city's autorickshaw drivers.

As global supply chains remain strained due to the West Asia conflict, private gas stations have hiked prices to as high as Rs 120 per litre, leaving drivers struggling to survive. While government-run bunks (IOCL and BPCL) have maintained prices at Rs 89.35 to Rs 89.52 per litre, the demand has caused long queues.

LPG dealers warn that the situation may worsen. High import costs could push private bunk prices to Rs 135 per litre by the end of this month.

On Monday, hundreds of autos were seen lining up at the Bharat Petroleum bunk near Magadi Road and Indian Oil outlets in RT Nagar, with many drivers waiting since 6 am.

For drivers like Shivakumar, a day's earning doesn't add up anymore. "I earn about Rs 500 a day. If I spend Rs 300 on just a few litres of gas and wait four hours to get it, how do I pay my house rent or my children's school fees? The government needs to intervene before we are forced off the roads entirely".

"We used to pay Rs 69 per litre before this crisis. Now, private bunks are charging double," said an auto driver on Magadi Road.

An auto driver has a worried look on his face as prices of LPG go up along with waiting time for refilling, at a bunk in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO

At True Auto Gas in Seshadripuram and other private outlets like Go Gas, prices have touched Rs 120 per litre. Supergas is retailing at Rs 99.52.

"Where is the justice?" asks Manjunath, an auto driver. "In private bunks, it is Rs 120. If we pay that, what do we take home? If we ask passengers for an extra five rupees to cover the cost, they argue with us. We are spending our working hours in queues".

Aegis Gas dealer Nagendra said even if they receive 5,000 litres, it doesn't last a single day.

"For the first time in 17 years, we've had to close due to 'no stock' situations. Aegis Gas in Cottonpet and Seshadripuram are charging Rs 105 a litre, citing erratic supply. Total Gas outlets across the city have been shut since March 25. "We have been closed for 20 days. We hope to resume services by April 20," the dealer said.

A BPCL dealer told *DH* that while their supply is currently steady, selling 5,000 to 6,000 litres daily, the pressure on government bunks has increased because private competitors are either dry or too expensive.

An official from a government-owned Oil Marketing Company (OMC) told *DH* that Bengaluru has over 51 government-owned outlets, with the remainder being privately operated. He stated that supply at these outlets remains steady and prices are stable, however, they cannot cater to the entire population. He attributed the price hikes at private stations to rising international crude oil prices and high import costs, adding that some operators might be exploiting the situation by creating artificial shortages.

Joyalukkas launches Akshaya Tritiya Cashback Fest

Joyalukkas announced a 'cashback fest' upto April 20 at all their showrooms on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. Joyalukkas has introduced attractive gift vouchers to complement the festive spirit. Those purchasing diamond, uncut diamond and platinum jewellery worth Rs 75,000 and more will receive a Rs 2,000 gift voucher. Those buying gold and precious jewellery collections worth Rs 75,000 and more will receive a Rs 1,000 gift voucher, and shoppers get a Rs 500 gift voucher on silver jewellery purchases of Rs 15,000 and more.

Dr Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group, said, "Through this cashback fest, we transform every jewellery purchase into a celebration of abundance. We believe in making this auspicious occasion rewarding for all".

The Akshaya Tritiya Cashback Fest is an opportunity to explore Joyalukkas' extensive collections spanning traditional heirloom pieces to contemporary designs, all crafted to celebrate the festival's essence of eternal prosperity.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Domestic LPG: Consumers allege long waiting period now

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The supply of domestic LPG seems to have slowed down as customers say the waiting period has increased from the stipulated time of 25 days for a cylinder.

While the government and agencies claim that the supplies have not been hit, the consumers waiting for cylinders outside the agencies tell a different story. The government has mandated that the LPG cylinder can be booked after a minimum of 25 days from the last booking (urban areas).

Speaking to *DH*, Ritika Shree, a customer at one of the gas agencies, said that she had booked her cylinder in the mid week of March, but was yet to receive it. "We have been waiting for the cylinder to arrive but it has not. We will be forced to rely on private cylinders if the situation prevails," she said.

Echoing the same sentiment, Janardhan H K, another customer, said, "We are not getting the cylinders that we have ordered. People at the agency tell us that it will be delivered soon every time we ask them for an update."

The customers also told *DH* that the gas agencies had informed them that it would take about 15 days to deliver the cylinders after the booking.

Ramakanth K, a customer, said that the crisis seems to be different with different companies. "As per my observation, the crisis is different for customers of different companies. My neighbour and I booked cylinders from different companies. They got it in five days and we have not got it in 18 days."

Representatives from various private gas agencies said that the price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder varies between Rs 1,600 and Rs 3,600. Shree Lakshmi, a customer waiting at an agency, said, "We have to pay so much for a private dealer and then if this cylinder arrives we will have to pay for it too. We are stuck with this uncertainty."

Zeena Fatima, a customer, said, "We are planning to buy the private cylinder. If the cylinder by the agency does not arrive in two days, we will be stuck with no means."

The government has mandated that the LPG cylinder can be booked after a minimum of 25 days from the last booking in urban areas. DH FILE PHOTO

Rising costs: Food prices go up in hotels

LPG crisis hastens annual hike this year

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Food prices have gone up by at least 5% at many restaurants in Bengaluru due to the hike in the prices of LPG and other items.

Restaurant owners say while an annual price revision is usually effected at the start of the financial year, the crisis has hastened and aggravated it this time.

"Many restaurants usually hike the prices at the beginning of the financial year. However, this year, the price revision may be a little more because of the crisis. Those who were raising the prices by 5% might have made it 8%," said P C Rao from the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA).

However, he noted that the price hikes have remained well within 10% to ensure that the customers are not burdened. "The crisis has also affected the spending ability of the people as many industries are also seeing a slowdown in production. As it is footfall has reduced and we do not want to burden the customers also," Rao said.

The LPG crisis has pushed the hoteliers to explore alternative energy sources for cooking including firewood. DH FILE PHOTO

Dearer delicacies
(5%-10% COSTLIER DEPENDING ON THE HOTEL)

Dosa	Rs 3- Rs 15
Idli	Rs 3- Rs 10
Vada	Rs 4- Rs 10
Rice items	Rs 5- Rs 15
Coffee/Tea	Rs 2- Rs 5

Despite an increase in the supply of commercial gas cylinders, many small hotels still struggle to get them because many sourced their cylinders from sub-vendors. "We needed one cylinder every two days. Now, though we request, we hardly get a cylinder once every three days. Hence, we have remained shut," said Prakash K, owner of a small Darshini in Yelahanka.

However, many bigger restaurants have stabilised and reopened their full menus. "Now, we have started receiving close to 60% of our demand. We use these cylinders mostly for making dose and have deployed alternate methods such as induction stoves and firewood to prepare the rest of the items. While we did cut down on our menu and working hours initially, now we have returned to normalcy," said Arun Adiga from the Vidyarthi Bhavan.

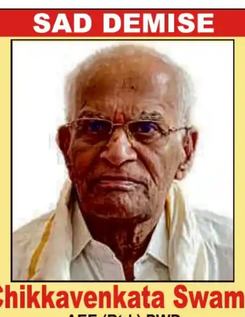
Alternative energy sources to stay

The crisis has pushed the hoteliers to explore alternative energy sources for cooking methods and many of these are likely to stay even after the LPG supply regularises.

"We have realised that depending on one source to run our kitchens is a bad idea. Hence, we will continue to use multiple sources based on operating costs even after supply returns to normal," said Arun Adiga. While induction stoves have been the most used alternative, firewood too has gained prominence. Close to 10% hotels in city have already transitioned to use induction-based stoves for dosa, Rao said. "We are urging all our members to use alternative methods. For instance, all kitchens in Bengaluru International Airport use only induction cooktops owing to safety concerns. This can be replicated across the city," Rao said.

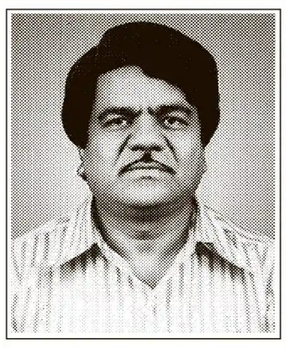
DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE



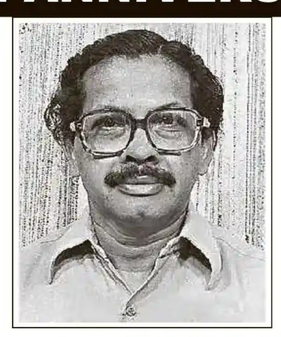
Chikkavenkata Swamy
AEE (Rtd.) PWD
DOB: 09/01/1935 - DOD: 13/04/2026
Burial location : Avaganapalli Village, Srinivaspura Taluk, Kolar District
Date and Time of Burial : 14/04/2026 Afternoon Before 3pm
We humbly request your presence to pay your last respects.
Deeply Mourned by Wife, Children, GrandChildren and Relatives.

39th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Shri P. G. Sundaresan
Born: 27-02-1937
Sadly Departed: 14-04-1987
Always Remembered by
Loving wife,
Family Members &
Grand Children:
Santosh, Priya,
Sudeep, Sukanya,
Sneha, Shreya,
Jay Sundaresan

40th ANNIVERSARY



K. T. BALAKRISHNAN
(Raman Research Institute)
REMEMBERING YOU IS OUR INSPIRATION
YOUR IDEALS ARE SPECIMEN FOR US.
YOU WILL LIVE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER
FAMILY MEMBERS.

Labourers rely on firewood, insulated from LPG shortage

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

As Bengaluru faces LPG gas shortage and rising costs, the specialised artisans and skilled workers from states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are leaving the city in significant numbers to cast their votes.

However, the core daily wage labour force remains largely unaffected by the fuel crisis."The gas shortage isn't really affecting the daily wage labourers because most do not rely on it," a builders' association member noted.

"They continue to use traditional cooking methods. In the labour sheds, they use cow dung cakes, twigs, logs and other construction waste materials for their makeshift fires."

"We collect scrap wood and sometimes even use leftover packing materials to cook," said Yadav, a daily wager. "It takes more effort, but at least we can cook our meals."

"The specialised workers doing tiling or intricate woodwork often live in shared PGs or rented rooms where they depend on LPG. But the daily labourers in the on-site sheds are staying put," a builder's association member told *DH*. "For them, the shortage isn't a factor."

RAMESH
A daily wage labourer
"Even before the shortage, LPG was not an option for us. We cook together using firewood. It is cheaper and always available.

Another worker, Murugan from Tamil Nadu, said, "In our rooms, we depend completely on LPG. Without it, even basic cooking becomes difficult. Eating outside every day is not affordable for us."

"Gas prices have tripled, and getting a refill takes days. If I am to spend my savings on fuel, I would rather go home, vote and wait for the situation to stabilise," said Biswas Das, a worker from West Bengal.

"We have never used gas here," said Ramesh, a daily wage labourer.

"It is too expensive and hard to get. We manage with what we find on the site." "Even before the shortage, LPG was not an option for us. We cook together using firewood. It is cheaper and always available."

'Cloth bag scam': SC stays HC nod to prosecute Rohini Sindhuri

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order directing the state government to give nod for prosecution of IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri over the 'cloth bag scam' of 2021, during her tenure as Mysuru deputy commissioner.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notice to the complainant and others on her plea challenging validity of HC's order passed earlier this month. Senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal appeared for her.

Her plea assailed the HC's order, which directed the government to grant approval for registration of FIR in connection with irregularities in procurement of eco-friendly bags for distribution in Mysuru city corporation and other local bodies.

In his order, Justice M Nagaprasanna had said mere exoneration of an officer in departmental proceedings cannot by itself foreclose initiation of criminal investigation.

It was alleged that eco-friendly bags were procured from Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation (KHDC) at Rs 52 per bag, while the same bags were sold at Rs 13 per bag in retail market. It resulted in loss of Rs 5.88 crore to exchequer, the complaint said.

It was filed by Mysuru-based lawyer and social activist N R Ravinchandre Gowda before the then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Mysuru,

The ACB sought approval under section 17A of Prevention of Corruption Act to register a crime and on Sept 9, 2022, the approval was rejected.

The complainant challenged the rejection and a coordinate bench of the high court, in February 2025, remitted matter back with direction to reconsider it afresh. The approval was again rejected on May 26, 2025, with verbatim like the earlier order, except the statement that the officer has been exonerated in a departmental enquiry.

Improvements made to e-Swathu: Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS: Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday said 1.33 lakh applications had been successfully processed on e-Swathu 2.0 platform, which has undergone "a series of improvements".

Priyank said 1.52 lakh applications had been received, of which 1.33 lakh were processed. He added that 76,093 applications had been received under the newly-introduced form 11B, which are currently at various stages of approval.

"We have reviewed feedback and taken steps to resolve key technical challenges in e-Swathu 2.0. Our focus is to make it more seamless, transparent and citizen-friendly, while ensuring faster disposal of applications," Kharge said.

Allowing submission of applications for new multi-storey (apartment) properties at gram panchayat level, introduction of automatic conversion of land measurements (gunta and cents) into square metres, resolving issues related to submission of encumbrance certificates (EC), fixing errors encountered while saving applications, enabling smooth download of e-Khata documents and addressing integration issues with electricity supply companies are among the fixes. Priyank said the government will soon enable modifications to newly-approved properties and integrate guidance values from the department of stamps & registration. For more help, call 9483476000.

DH Classifieds
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/ 98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRIYANKA NIPUN KAVERIAPPA KALIANDA**, residing at Flat No. D203, Adharsh Pinecourt Apartment Off Hennur Road, Near United International School, Chikkagubbi P.O. Doddagubbi - 560077, have changed my name to **PRIYANKA DEVENIRA GANESH** vide affidavit dated 12-04-2026 before notary R. Jyshree, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Raju** alias **Narayan Mudaliyar** residing at No. 150, 9th Main Road, Lakkasandra Extension, Bengaluru-560030, have changed my name to **K NARAYAN RAJU** vide affidavit dated 09-04-2026 before notary S Jayanth, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **K NARAYAN RAJU** only

Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING TO Infant Jesus for blessings received and prayers answered. I am forever grateful for the miracle granted. - Vatsela

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

ADMISSION CORNER

LORD SRI KRISHNA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TRUST
SRI KRISHNA DEGREE COLLEGE
ITI Layout, BSK 3rd stage Bengaluru – 560085
Hearty Congratulations to **II PUC 2025-26 BATCH**
Appeared - 230, Distinction - 41 **97% Result**
1st Class - 109, 2nd Class - 45, Pass Class - 28

SCIENCE TOPPERS

Arundhati Anantha Avadhani 96% | PRANAMYA 95% | AFRA KHANUM 94% | DEKSHNA K 91% | SEJAL DEVAARA 88% & many more...!

COMMERCE TOPPERS

MEGHA G 96.33% | PRAGHATHI H M 96.33% | KEERTHAN RAJ 94.5% | SUMAN CHOWDARY 94.16% | POORNIMA C 92% & many more...!

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026-27 LKG to PG
A+ NAAC

School : ICSE / State www.skies.org.in
PUC : Science & Commerce www.skpuc.edu.in
Degree : B.COM, BBA & BCA B.Com (Evening) www.skdc.edu.in
PG : M.COM, MBA www.skibsbschool.edu.in (MBA)
For Admissions Enquiry:
Office: 080-26796020 / 26690799
Principal: 9945330589 / 7204636992

Resume beneficiary-oriented progs, CS tells depts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has asked all departments to resume the implementation of various beneficiary-oriented programmes, following clearance from the Election Commission of India (ECI).

A screening committee, headed by her, had recommended the resumption of government programmes after April 9, following the conclusion of voting in Davangere South and Bagalkot seats where bypolls were held. On April 11, the ECI conveyed its 'no objection'.

Upendra launches website for his party Prajakeeya

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada actor Upendra launched a website for his party Prajakeeya on Monday.

The website features party workers in every Assembly constituency and an opportunity to report issues of health, employment and infrastructure.

As many as 15,065 citizens and 250 election ticket aspirants registered themselves on the website by Monday evening. The aspirants have to sign a declaration and agreement that once elected, he or she will work for the citizens of the constituency, undergo performance evaluation every six months and that if more than 50% of the citizens express dissatisfaction, they will undergo another evaluation. If they fail in the second valuation also, they will have to resign from the position.

The aspirants have to give basic information about themselves and express their interests. A standard of procedure (SOP) has to be signed to finally apply for being a ticket aspirant. People can contact the aspirants on their phone numbers and WhatsApp numbers provided on the website. Citizens, after choosing their constituencies, can report on issues related to jobs, health, education, roads, water, sewage and garbage. Prajakeeya was established as a socialist party in 2018. It contested all constituencies in the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

New Rs 4,600-cr JSW plant among 17 projects cleared

Promise to create 15,032 jobs in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

The State High Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC), headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, cleared 17 projects carrying an investment of Rs 18,430.44 crore, which promise to create 15,032 jobs, on Monday.

The new investments include an investment of Rs 4,600 crore by billionaire Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel (JSW Vijayanagar Metallics Ltd) at Ballari, which will create 300 jobs, the government said.

According to sources, this is a first-of-its-kind steel facility.

The Volvo Group India Pvt Ltd is spending Rs 1,500 crore for an automobile facility in the Bengaluru North district.

River Mobility Pvt Ltd's Rs 1,028 crore EV and automobile unit in Kolar (900 jobs), Genx PV India Pvt Ltd's Rs 1,000 crore solar project in Chikkaballapura (1,500 jobs) and Aerostructures Manufacturing India Pvt Ltd's Rs 1,356 crore aerospace facility in Belagavi (1,350 jobs) were approved.

Other projects include PMI Technology India Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,000 crore, 800 jobs, Bengaluru), OneSource Specialty Pharma Ltd (Rs 700 crore, 1,000 jobs, Bengaluru North), Astemo India Pvt Ltd (Rs 618 crore, 1,600 jobs, Tumakuru), Astemo FIE Pvt Ltd (Rs 604.9 crore, 1,400 jobs, Bengaluru North), M11 Energy Transition Pvt Ltd (Rs 1,600 crore, 2,000 jobs, Dakshina Kannada) and Sai Life Sciences Ltd (Rs 900 crore, 500 jobs, Bidar).

These 11 new investment proposals have a combined investment of Rs 14,906.9 crore and an estimated 13,050 jobs.

The SHLCC also approved six additional investment proposals across sectors, such as plastics, textiles, aerospace, steel, semiconductors and sugar, with a total investment of Rs 3,523.54 crore and employment potential for 1,982 people.

These include Poddar Plumbing System Pvt Ltd's Rs 266 crore plastics project in Kolar (1,500 jobs) and Colortone Textiles Pvt Ltd's Rs 355 crore garments and textiles unit in Chamarajanagara (460 jobs).

Goodrich Aerospace Services Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 141.5 crore in an aerospace project in Bengaluru (22 jobs), while MSPL Ltd has proposed an Rs 884.25 crore steel investment in Ballari with no additional employment indicated.

Wipro Global Engineering and Electronic Materials Pvt Ltd is investing Rs 1,397 crore on a semiconductor project in Bengaluru North. Indian Cane Power Ltd is pumping Rs 479.79 crore into a sugar project in Bagalkot.

The government has not indicated employment generation in these projects.

Women participate in the Town Hall meeting on Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2026, organised by Nari Shakti Forum, in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Nari Shakti Forum in B'luru backs Women's Reservation Bill, hails PM Modi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Nari Shakti Forum (NSF) – a platform of women achievers in Bengaluru came together on Monday, and passed a resolution endorsing the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill (women's reservation) and congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pushing it in Parliament ahead of the three-day special session, starting April 16.

Padma Shri awardee Dr S G Susheelamma, founder of Sumangali Seva Ashram, said women had fought for political power in gram, taluk, and zilla panchayats but the same representation was denied in Assemblies and the Parliament for years. "But today we are realising it under Modi's leadership. We endorse the bill and congratulate him."

Leading oncologist Dr Vijayalakshmi Deshmane termed it a significant moment that reflects the PM's vision for Viksit Bharat. "We must be ready. I urge all political parties to endorse the Bill," she said.

Arjuna awardee Ashwini Nachappa said she was deeply inspired by the PM's vision of Nari Shakti. "Today, we will not ask why the Bill was rejected three times. We will celebrate the one man piloting it now. There is equal pay and equal prize money in sports, but it was not so in Parliament. The PM has made it possible," she said.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje said despite women proving leadership in DRDO, ISRO, and sports, mindsets have not changed. "They ask, 'Why now?" she said adding that Modi advocated 'women-led development', not just 'women's development'. "Women from diverse fields must enter politics on merit, not just family ties," she added.

Former state women's commission chairperson C. Manjula, who moved the resolution, said the social and spiritual leaders, like Swami Vivekananda and Dr Ambedkar, believed a country's progress was not possible without women's political leadership. "Today, Modiji has pushed for enhancing the Parliament strength to 816 seats, with 273 reserved seats for women."

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra termed the moment historic. "For India to become a developed nation by 2047, women's political representation is essential. Modiji believes in women's participation in decision-making," he said.

Referring to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks calling the Bill a "political gimmick," Vijayendra urged him to withdraw the statement, terming it an insult to women power.

ASHWINI NACHAPPA
Former Olympian

"Today, we will not ask why the Bill was rejected three times. We will celebrate the one man piloting it now. There is equal pay and equal prize money in sports, but it was not so in Parliament. The PM has made it possible.

DRAWN OUT OF DANGER

Onlookers click away on their phones as a wild elephant, which had fallen into a well at a farm, walks out after the earth around the well was dug up using excavators to make way for it, in a six-hour operation by the forest department at Kalcharpe in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Monday. The jumbo was later driven back to the forest.

Don't resign, Cong's Muslim workers urge Naseer Ahmed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Scores of Muslim Congress workers from Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts arrived at MLC Naseer Ahmed's residence here on Monday and urged him not to resign as chief minister's political secretary.

Ahmed is accused of working against the party in the April 9 Davangere South bypoll.

It was widely believed that Ahmed would step down on Monday based on a directive from the Congress top brass. As a fallout of the infighting during the bypoll, MLC Abdul Jabbar quit as chief of the party's minorities department.

Over 20 Cong MLAs meet Kharge, seek Cabinet berths

Set to meet other top leaders over next few days

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A group of about 20 Congress MLAs on Monday called on party president Mallikarjun Kharge and pressed for an immediate Cabinet reshuffle in the Siddaramaiah government, to accommodate fresh faces.

The group included former minister and Karnataka's special representative in Delhi T B Jayachandra, P M Ashok Pattan, Y V Patil, G S Patil, Basavaraj Shivannanavar, J T Patil, Yashwanthraya Gouda Patil, Raghavendra Hitnal, A R Krishnamurthy, Beluru Gopalakrishna, Narayanaswamy, D G Shantanagouda, Shadakshari, C Puttaranga Setty, Ravi Ganiga, B Shivanna and Hampanagouda Badarli.

The legislators held a closed-door meeting with Kharge for over half an hour.

Emerging from the meeting, Jayachandra told reporters that the legislators urged Kharge to advise Siddaramaiah to undertake a Cabinet rejig by inducting new faces.

"We reminded him about the long-pending reshuffle. We suggested that the exercise will help strengthen the party ahead of the upcoming local body elections," Jayachandra said.

He said Kharge gave them a patient hearing and assured them that their demand would be addressed soon.

When asked about any possibility of a leadership change in the state, Jayachandra clarified, "We have not discussed that issue at all. It is entirely up to the high command to take a call".

The MLAs are expected to remain in the national capital for a few more days and are planning to meet Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and general secretary (incharge of Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala.

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's camp is pushing for a Cabinet expansion and reshuffle, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is reportedly opposed to it.

Currently, two Cabinet berths remain vacant following the resignations of K N Rajanna and B Nagendra.

Sources within the party indicated that senior leader Rahul Gandhi is expected to call both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to Delhi mid-next month to resolve the leadership issue. The Congress high command is said to be favourable to a major reshuffle, including dropping nearly 20 ministers and bringing in new faces.

Congress lawmakers aspiring for ministerial berths hold a meeting and collect signatures at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday.

Copra hits record high of Rs 38k/quintal

TUMAKURU, DHNS: The price of copra hit a record Rs 38,000 per quintal in the APMC market at Tiptur in Tumakuru district on Monday. The produce was aucitioned for Rs 36,006 on April 9. However, the price shot up to a maximum of Rs 38,000 per quintal on Monday. Traders attributed the jump to slump in market supply.

Highest score from II PUC exams 1 & 2 to be considered for KCET rank

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has clarified to students and parents that the highest marks secured in examinations 1 and 2 will be considered for KCET ranking.

The Authority has issued a statement in this regard following questions by several students and parents.

"Students, no need to get confused. We will consider the highest score from exam 1 and exam 2 while declaring KCET results and awarding ranks," H Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, said.

Prasanna also clarified that the KCET results will be declared only after the announcement of the results for examination 2. However, this will be applicable only for the state board students and not for other board students.

Maintain discipline or face action: Shivakumar warns ministerial aspirants

BENGALURU, DHNS

With over two dozen lawmakers camping in New Delhi to become ministers, Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D K Shivakumar on Monday warned them against violating the party's discipline.

Shivakumar

Some 30 lawmakers, including government chief whip Ashok Pattan, are in the national capital to mount pressure on the Congress high command to approve a major reshuffle of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet. Most of these MLAs are Siddaramaiah's loyalists.

"They must maintain discipline. They must respect the party. They shouldn't damage the party before the media," Shivakumar told reporters.

"Their future lies in the party, not in the media. So, I appeal to all my MLAs... there's nothing wrong with meeting party leaders. But we'll have to act if unnecessary statements are made," he said.

Shivakumar said some of the MLAs met him before leaving for Delhi.

"I told them there was nothing wrong with their demands. First-time MLAs, second-time MLAs...it's not that they shouldn't become ministers," he said.

However, Shivakumar pointed out that the timing was not right. "This isn't the time. Elections are still on. Some (party leaders) have been sent to Tamil Nadu. Let's do the elections first," he said.

Ministerial aspirants want a Cabinet reshuffle before May 15. On May 20, the Congress government completes 3 years in office.

Pattan and others argue that the party had assured them that the Cabinet would be reshuffled after two-and-a-half years. MLAs identified as Shivakumar's loyalists are also demanding ministerial berths.

"There are 38 first-time MLAs who have urged the party that at least five of us should be given a chance as ministers," Mandya MLA Ravikumar Gowda (Ganiga), a first-time lawmaker, said.

DKS meets Kharge

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. It is speculated that he urged the party top brass to first settle the leadership dispute between him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Shivakumar, however, said he discussed the Tamil Nadu election campaign issue with Kharge. "I was instructed to visit Tamil Nadu. I'll have to go again. I had to give (Kharge) a report. That's it," he said.

Parameshwara's reaction

On MLAs camping in Delhi, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the Congress high command "knows everything" and that a decision would be made at the right time.

He said senior ministers like himself will have to exit if high command decides so.

Women's quota: Cong will convene all-party meet on April 15, says Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS

All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that the party would convene a meeting of all the opposition parties on April 15, to discuss the Women's Reservation Bill.

Speaking to reporters here, Kharge maintained that the Congress "fully supports" the legislation. However, he slammed the Union government for its unwillingness to hold wider consultations.

"If they (Centre) call all parties and allow discussions, we can participate and offer our suggestions. But they are not prepared to call all-party meeting. That is why we are once again convening an all (opposition) party meeting on April 15. Whatever decision we take in that all-party meeting, we will convey it," Kharge added.

The Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha said that the Congress had always backed women's reservation. "None of us is opposed to Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam or the women's reservation Bill. We have already supported it, and it is an Act that was passed unanimously. They are simply trying to take political advantage of this," he charged.

"We have already implemented (women's reservation) in panchayats and even in corporations. So there is no need to teach us lessons," Kharge said.

State govt to provide 500 acres for automotive research centre in Mandya district

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has assured the Centre of granting a 500-acre land parcel in Mandya district for the establishment of the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).

The state government had initially hinted at allotting up to 100 acres for an ARAI centre, where vehicles are tested and certified. However, in the aftermath of the meeting between Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy and Karnataka Industries Minister M B Patil, the latter directed officials to identify a 500-acre plot where ARAI could be established.

"The Centre has evinced interest in establishing ARAI in Mandya. Instead of setting it up across 100 acres, as was proposed earlier, we have discussed the possibility of establishing a comprehensive industrial park spread over at least 500 acres," said Patil.

Establishing ARAI across just 100 acres would result in its turning into a standalone facility, said Patil. "Instead, it would be better to develop a comprehensive industrial hub within which ARAI will be incorporated so as to support the automobile sector. Kumaraswamy has agreed to this proposal. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to the Special Deputy Commissioner to identify either government or private land in Mandya district," he added.

A 105-acre parcel near Basaralu that was initially suggested for the ARAI centre had been agreed upon, said Patil. With plans having changed, the government is exploring other options, he added.

"Around 425 acres near Belluru along the Bengaluru-Mangaluru National Highway was acquired in 2021, although those who parted with land are yet to be fully compensated. The Centre has been asked to consider this site for the project," said Patil.

It was also suggested by some participants in the meeting that the industrial hub could be developed in the land adjoining Tubinakere Industrial Area in Pandvapura or along the borders of Mandya taluk. However, it was deemed best to deliberate on the final location for the project after the submission of a detailed report on the availability of land.

Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy and Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. MLA H D Revanna is also seen. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Kumaraswamy, meanwhile, requested the state to resolve all issues concerning land acquisition for the project by April 30. "We are planning to hold the foundation stone laying ceremony for the ARAI centre in May," said the Union Minister.

Pointing out that the country already boasted four ARAI centres, Kumaraswamy expressed his wish to see Karnataka house the fifth one. "It will give a fillip to the automobile industry and the manufacture of electric vehicles. I have decided to establish the centre in Mandya, my Lok Sabha constituency. If the state government extends support, as promised by Patil, I can bring more such industries to Karnataka," he added.

M B Patil said that Andrew Yule Company Limited (AYCL), which manufactures electrical equipment, large industrial fans and transformers, would need 25-50 acres to set up its manufacturing unit in Mandya. He assured the company of providing the land soon.

Mangoes hit market at princely prices amid sharp decline in yield

Alphonso variety is priced between Rs 1,600 and Rs 2,000 per dozen

R SHRINIDHI
DHARWAD, DHNS

The much-awaited Alphonso mangoes have finally arrived in the markets, but at steep, "princely" prices, leaving consumers hesitant to buy. A dozen of Alphonso mangoes is currently priced between Rs 1,600 and Rs 2,000 - roughly Rs 150 per fruit - marking one of the highest price surges in recent years.

The sharp rise in prices is primarily attributed to a significant drop in production. Major mango-growing regions across Karnataka - including Dharwad, Haveri, Belagavi, parts of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Kolar - are witnessing nearly a 50% decline in yield, this season.

While weather conditions were favourable during November and December, the situation worsened drastically in February and March. Erratic climatic patterns - extreme heat, unseasonal rains, gusty winds, and hailstorms - have severely impacted the crop, dealing a heavy blow to both growers and consumers.

Devendra Jainer, an Alphonso grower from Kelgeri in Dharwad, said that the crop initially showed great promise. "The trees had flowered abundantly in December, raising hopes of a good harvest. However, unseasonal rains and hailstorms destroyed much of the crop. The flowers withered, and yield has dropped to less than 40%," he said.

A spell of hailstorm that lashed north Karnataka districts in February-March had adverse impact on mango yield.

He added that under normal conditions, an acre of mango orchard yields around five tonnes. "This year, we are getting hardly one tonne. The shortage has driven prices up, and many consumers are refraining from buying," he said.

Dharwad, Belagavi, and Haveri are known for producing export-quality Alphonso mangoes. Mango cultivation spans approximately 15,000 hectares in Dharwad, 20,000 hectares in Belagavi, and 10,000 hectares in Haveri. While last year saw a 30% decline in yield, this year the drop has worsened to nearly 50%.

Meanwhile, the Mango Growers' Association in Dharwad has submitted a memorandum to Horticulture Department Director Ibrahim Maigur, urging the government to introduce a crop compensation scheme to support affected farmers.

The delegation met the director during his visit to Kumbhapur in Dharwad on Saturday, where he reviewed the progress of the Integrated Pack House under construction at the Mango Development Centre.

Association president Dr Rajendra Poddar highlighted the severity of the crisis, "Although flowering was excellent during December–January, nearly 90% of the flowers dropped due to adverse climatic conditions. Pest attacks such as hoppers and diseases like powdery mildew and anthracnose further reduced fruit set," he explained.

Unseasonal rains and hailstorms during February–March compounded the damage, leaving farmers with only 10–15% of expected yield. Despite heavy investments in orchard maintenance and labour - often through loans - farmers are unable to recover losses, even with crop insurance. In extreme cases, some are being forced to cut down their mango trees.

The association has urged the government to introduce a scientific compensation mechanism aligned with actual losses, conduct expert studies on flower drop, and address shortcomings in crop insurance policies to ensure fair compensation.

Horticulture Department Joint Director K C Bhadrannavar acknowledged the crisis, stating that adverse climatic conditions have caused a sharp decline in mango production across the state. "In Dharwad, mango is cultivated over 14,000 hectares. Under normal conditions, yield averages around four tonnes per acre, but this year it is less than one tonne," he said.

Mango vendor Yellappa Bangari from Jogyellapur described the situation as a "double whammy" for growers. "Production is low, and prices are high. Despite setting up a stall for the past three days, only two customers have purchased mangoes," he said.

Vachanananda Swami expelled from Harihar Panchamasali Peeth

DAVANGERE, DHNS

The Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Jagadguru Peeth Trust on Monday expelled the head of the Harihar Peeth Vachanananda Swami..

In a meeting held at the Mutt, 12 out of 15 trustees decided to remove the head of the Mutt citing that the seer didn't relinquish the Bengaluru-based Shwaasa Yoga Peeth despite repeated requests.

"A decision has been taken to remove Vachanananda Swami as the head of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeeth. While anointing Vachanananda Swami as head of the Gurupeeth he was asked to quit Shwaasa Yoga Peeth. The seer didn't pay heed to several deadlines to relinquish his yoga peeth. Hence, the Trust decided to expel him," Gurupeetha trust-sees Bavi Bettappa and Basavaraj Dindur told reporters on the sidelines of the meeting.

B C Umapathi, another trustee, said the seer was asked several times to vacate Shwaasa Yoga Peeth in Bengaluru and fully engage in the Harihar Panchamasali Peeth activities. The seer did not vacate it. "We can't allow the seer to turn the Mutt into a guesthouse. So, the seer has been removed from the Peeth."

Reacting to the decision of the Trust, Vachanananda Swami said, "My expulsion is ridiculous. The trustees have targeted me for asking them to furnish the details of funds received and utilisation thereon. This is a systematic conspiracy... I will make a decision after discussing with the devotees."

Meanwhile, a high drama was witnessed outside the mutt with a section of devotees led by former Harihar MLA H S Shivashankar protesting, demanding financial accountability from the Trust. They sought the details of funds released by the successive governments.

Woman Maoist with Rs 5 lakh bounty killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

KANKER (CHHATTISGARH), PTI

A woman Maoist carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Monday, police said.

The deceased, identified as Rupi, was an area committee member of the Maoists and is believed to be the last senior Telugu cadre active in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, which comprises seven districts, including Kanker, they said.

The face-off comes 12 days after the government declared Chhattisgarh free of armed Maoists on March 31.

Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P, said the government has been continuously appealing to Maoists to surrender and avail of rehabilitation benefits, leading to a significant number opting to return to the mainstream in recent months.

However, some cadres, including Rupi, continued on the path of violence, which ultimately led to such outcomes, he noted.

The gunfight broke out in the morning at a forest near Machpalli village on the border of Chhotebethiya-Partapur police station areas, when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of cadres, Kanker Superintendent of Police Nikhil Rakhecha said.

After guns fell silent, Rupi's body was recovered from the spot along with a pistol, explosives and other materials, he said, adding that a search operation was still underway in the area.

According to police, Rupi was the wife of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee member Vijay Reddy, who was killed in an encounter last year in the Manpur-Mohla-Ambaragrh Chowki district area.

IG Sundarraj P appealed to the remaining Maoist cadres to abandon violence and rejoin the mainstream, stating they have limited time left to choose a peaceful and dignified life.

With the latest action, at least 28 Maoists have been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year.

Last year, security forces killed 285 Maoists in encounters across the state. The Centre had set March 31, 2026, as the deadline to eradicate Left-Wing Extremism from the country.

Mekedatu: TN seeks open court hearing on review plea

SC to hear review petition tomorrow

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday urged the Supreme Court to grant an open court hearing on its review plea against the November 2025 judgment that declined to consider its petition against the Mekedatu balancing reservoir- cum-drinking water project proposed by Karnataka.

Senior advocate G Umapathy for the TN government mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant.

He said the state had filed an application for open court hearing. The bench said if it's a review petition, it can't be considered like this.

Review petition is considered in judges' chambers as per rules through circulation of documents without assistance from the counsel.

The review petition filed by Tamil Nadu in December, 2025 is scheduled to come up for consideration on April 15 before the CJI and Justices K Vinod Chandran and Vipul M Pancholi.

A file photo of the spot where a balancing reservoir is proposed to be constructed as part of Mekedatu project.

The Mekadatu project is considered crucial for alleviating severe water distress and meeting the drinking water needs of millions of residents in Bengaluru metropolitan region.

A three-judge bench of then Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria had called as premature the application by TN against the nod by the Central Water Commission (CWC) for preparation of the detailed project report in the matter.

TN contended that the project would be detrimental to the interests of farmers in the state.

Karnataka, on the other hand, submitted that in terms of the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment, the state was duty-bound to deliver 177.25 tmc ft of water to TN and if it is not affected, they should be able to go ahead with the reservoir project, subject to requisite permissions.

Agreeing to the submission, the bench had said, "What is being done by the order passed by the CWC is only preparation of DPR, that too after taking into consideration the objections of TN, experts of CWMA (Cauvery Water Management Authority) and CWRC (Cauvery Water Regulation Committee)".

The bench pointed out that the CWC had further directed that the prior approval of CWMA and CWRC would be a prerequisite for consideration of DPR.

The bench emphasised that this court, time and again, reiterated that this court should refrain from areas which are best reserved for experts.

It also clarified that if the DPR was approved by CWC, then TN would be free to take such steps as permissible in law.

Karnataka claimed the project is of vital importance to regulate monthly stipulated releases to TN in a normal year at Biligundlu, in accordance with the final order of Cauvery water dispute tribunal as modified by the judgment of the Supreme Court on February 16, 2018.

It is important to utilise 4.75 tmc ft (consumptive use) of water for meeting drinking water needs of Bangalore metropolitan region as allocated by this court, the state claimed.

Cops probe loan app link to Kerala student's death

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The death of a dental student in Kerala by suicide has taken a fresh turn, with police registering a case against a loan app operator who is yet to be identified.

While the family of Nithin Raj alleged that casteist and racial slurs by a section of teachers drove him to suicide, police suspect he was also under stress due to pressure from an online loan app operator to repay a loan he had taken.

According to police, after Raj defaulted on a repayment of Rs 14,000, the loan app operator contacted faculty members at Kannur Dental College and pressurised them.

Police are trying to trace the operator through Raj's mobile phone.

Of late, there have been several instances of people being trapped by online loan apps that promise easy credit. Last month, a 21-year-old youth in Thiruvananthapuram died by suicide after a loan app operator allegedly circulated his morphed pictures to relatives and friends following a repayment default.

Meanwhile, Raj's family said that neither he nor any of his faculty members had informed them about harassment by loan apps.

Police have also arraigned Dr MK Ram, head of the dental anatomy department, and associate professor Dr Sangeetha in connection with the case pertaining to Raj's death.

Trump: Will sink Iran boats...

Blockade, From Page 1

"I can tell you that we've been called by the other side. They'd like to make a deal. Very badly, very badly," Trump told reporters outside the Oval Office, without identifying which officials had called.

It was not clear if the blockade had started when the designated time of 2 pm GMT arrived. Minutes earlier, a notice to mariners issued by the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency, which monitors maritime security, said the restrictions included "the entirety of the Iranian coastline, including ports and energy infrastructure".

The notice added that transit through the strait "to or from non-Iranian destinations is not reported to be impeded by these measures," but it added that ships "may encounter military presence" in the strait.

The US military's Central Command announced that the blockade would be enforced "against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas".

It said that would include all of Iran's ports on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

CENTCOM's decision to allow ships traveling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait was a step down from Trump's earlier threat to blockade the waterway.

The blockade is likely intended to pile pressure on Iran, which has exported millions of barrels of oil since the war began, much of it likely carried by so-called dark transits that evade Western sanctions and oversight.

But the effects will be felt far beyond Iran. The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 7% to hover around $102 per barrel on Monday. It cost roughly $70 per barrel before the war.

Some analysts are doubtful that the US can restore normal shipping through force alone—and it's not clear how a blockade would work or what the dangers might be to US forces.

SC questions logic of EC's Bengal discrepancy list

SIR, From Page 1

The court said when it permitted the EC to go into the issue of purifying electoral rolls, it was implicit in the original poll panel notification on SIR that the 2002 voters' list would not be touched.

"When the Bihar SIR was argued, submissions of the EC were unequivocal that members of the 2002 list need not give any document. Please see your written submissions in the Bihar case. You said the 2002 electorate need not give documents. But your logical discrepancy rejection touched people who relate to people in the 2002 list. The 2002 voters' list is the benchmark. Please ensure that you don't delete the 2002 list members in your final list," the court told the polls panel.

Senior advocate D S Naidu, appearing for the EC, replied that people still have to prove that they are the same person as in the 2002 list. To this, the bench said, "Now you are improvising the submissions which you made earlier."

The EC's counsel further said the poll body provided exclusion and inclusion statistics of all states subjected to SIR, and emphasised that West Bengal does not stand out in any manner. The bench, however, said, "Logical discrepancy has not been a category in other states. We have examined Bihar, we have found not a single person was flagged on logical discrepancy."

Naidu said Bihar, too, has exclusions, and not even a single appeal was filed. The bench said, "For the appellate tribunal, this is not a competition between conflating or deflating electoral rolls. They have to hear it on the principles of inclusion." The bench said it is essential to have a robust appellate forum.

"Somewhere, we are getting blinded by the dust and fury of an impending election. The right to remain on a roll, the right to vote in a country where you are born is something which is not only constitutional, it is sentimental. It is the biggest expression of nationality and patriotism that you are in a participative process," Justice Bagchi said.

The court observed that unless an enormous number of voters are excluded and the winning margin is less than the exclusions, the election results cannot be interfered with.

"If 10% of the electorate does not vote and the winning margin is more than 10%...what will happen? Suppose the margin is 2% and 15% of the electorate who are mapped could not vote, then maybe, we are not expressing any opinion, but we would definitely have to apply our minds," Justice Bagchi told the Election Commission.

Naidu said that in West Bengal, judicial officers had rejected 47% of petitions they adjudicated. To this, the bench said this is neither a fight between the state and the EC nor a blame game, yet voters are being sandwiched between two constitutional authorities.

The bench finally declined to entertain the petitions. "Since the petitioners have already approached the appellate tribunals, in our considered view, the apprehensions expressed in the petition are premature. If the plea is allowed, then necessary consequences will follow," the bench said while clarifying that it has not expressed any views on the merits of the plea.

Retail inflation rises to 3.4% in March

Retail inflation, From Page 1

Petrol and diesel have a combined weight of 4.8% in the CPI, while LPG and PNG together have a smaller weight of 1.98%.

Analysts said retail inflation was fairly insulated from the global energy price shock due to the measures taken by the government to keep diesel and petrol prices steady.

"Despite elevated geopolitical tensions, the limited uptick suggests that pass-through effects are yet to be seen," said Gulam Zia, Senior Executive Director at Knight Frank India.

"We expect the impact of higher energy prices to gradually percolate over the coming months, as replacement supplies arrive with a lag. At the same time, we continue to monitor the risk of a fuel price increase in the weeks ahead," said Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist at DBS Bank. Core inflation (CPI excluding volatile food and energy sectors) stood at 3.4%. It has remained largely unchanged for the past three months.

Exchange rate fluctuations, high oil prices and other external shocks due to the West Asia conflict pushed imported inflation to 6.49%. The imported inflation, which has 21.84% weight in CPI, contributed 43% to the overall inflation during the month under review.

According to analysts, the retail inflation is likely to hit around 4% in April and remain elevated in the coming months.

"The impact of the unrest in West Asia will continue to feed into prices of several items such as alternate fuels, airfares (owing to higher ATF prices), restaurants (owing to higher commercial LPG prices), which along with rising input prices, is likely to harden the April 2026 headline inflation print," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

"In the coming months, while a low base will perk up food inflation, the adverse impact of heatwaves and increased risk from a below-normal southwest monsoon will assign an upside to food inflation," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil.

IMD predicts below-normal southwest monsoon

Monsoon, From Page 6

El Niño conditions, according to Mohapatra, are very likely during the monsoon season, but their effects will be seen after June.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) refers to an unusual warming of the Pacific and corresponding changes in tropical air pressure, influencing weather patterns across the globe. It is generally associated with poor monsoon rainfall in India, but there are exceptions like 1997 when India experienced normal monsoon rainfall despite it being an El Niño year.

Globally, scientists apprehend the emergence of a "super El Niño" in the latter part of 2026 and are keeping a close watch. Weather models currently predict the emergence of an El Niño by July, which will gather strength as the year progresses. A clearer picture will emerge by May-end.

Between 1951 and 2023, there were 16 El Niño years. Of these, there were six weak El Niño years, three moderate and seven strong El Niño years.

The all-India seasonal rainfall was in the deficient (less than 10%) category during two of the six weak El Nino years, in all three moderate El Nino years, and in four of the seven strong years.

"This means in nine of the 16 El Niño years India had deficient monsoon rainfall, suggesting El Niño can be a major deciding factor for the monsoon but not the sole one," a scientist said.

On a positive note, two other weather parameters suggest a good monsoon. One of them is the Indian Ocean Dipole – a sea surface temperature see-saw between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Positive IOD conditions are likely to develop towards the end of the SW monsoon season, which is favourable for rainfall.

Northern hemisphere snow cover and Eurasian snow cover during January to March 2026 were slightly below normal, which is favourable for southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall. IMD will release its next monsoon forecast by the end of May, providing updates on country-wide forecasts as well as regional forecasts.

Was almost declared corrupt by Justice Sharma: Kejriwal in HC

AAP convenor also questions speed at which some cases, including his, are being heard

NEW DELHI, PTI

Arvind Kejriwal

Former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday told Delhi High Court judge Swarana Kanta Sharma that her earlier decisions in the liquor policy cases "almost declared" him guilty and corrupt, and that he apprehends he would not get justice if she continues to hear the CBI's plea against his discharge.

Appearing before Justice Sharma to argue his application seeking her withdrawal from the case, the AAP convenor contended that under the law on recusal, the question was not of a judge's integrity or uprightness but of "reasonable bias" in the litigant's mind.

Justice Sharma reserved her verdict after hearing the AAP chief, the counsel for others discharged in the liquor policy case, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the CBI, till 7 pm on Monday.

Mehta said the applications for recusal should be dismissed with costs, and a contempt action should be initiated against the applicants.

These were apprehensions of an "immature mind", he said, cautioning that recusal in the case would set a bad precedent.

Kejriwal claimed that, except for the CBI's plea and a case involving a political opponent of the BJP, no other case before Justice Sharma was being heard at the same "speed", and there was a "trend" of the court "endorsing" probe agencies' arguments.

He submitted that on the first day of the hearing on March 9, the HC "neutralised" the discharge order — passed by the trial court judge following daily hearings for over three months — by passing a "sweeping, ex parte order" in haste, in violation of principles of natural justice.

The HC declared a discharge order, passed after assessing 40,000 pages of evidence, as prima facie erroneous after a five-minute hearing, he said.

On February 27, the trial court discharged Kejriwal, Sisodia, and 21 others and pulled up the CBI, saying that its case was wholly unable to survive judicial scrutiny.

On March 9, Justice Sharma issued notices to all 23 accused on the CBI's plea against their discharge, saying the trial court's certain observations and findings at the stage of framing of charges prima facie appeared erroneous and needed consideration.

ED arrests I-PAC director in Bengal coal 'scam' case

NEW DELHI, PTI: In a major action weeks ahead of the West Bengal assembly polls, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Vinesh Chandel, a director and co-founder of political consultancy firm I-PAC, in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in the poll-bound state.

Vinesh Chandel

An official said Chandel was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Delhi late evening.

He is expected to be produced before a special court tonight, where the ED will seek Chandel's custodial remand for questioning.

Chandel's premises in Delhi, apart from that of another I-PAC co-founder and director, Rishi Raj Singh, in Bengaluru and that of former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communications in-charge Vijay Nair in Mumbai, were raided by the ED on April 2 as part of this investigation.

The federal probe agency conducted raids in connection with the case on January 8 at the I-PAC office and the Kolkata residence of its founder and one of the directors, Pratik Jain, leading to a controversy after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrived at the said location along with state government officials and took away documents.

The ED had said its searches against I-PAC and Jain in Kolkata were "obstructed" by Banerjee, claiming relevant documents and gadgets were forcibly taken away by her and the state administration.

The chief minister and the TMC had countered these allegations, saying said the ED was attempting to take its election-strategy-related documents from I-PAC premises just before the assembly polls in the state.

The ED sought a CBI probe into this "gross abuse of power" by the CM from the Supreme Court, which is currently hearing the case.

The ED case stems from a November 2020 FIR of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that has alleged a multi-crore-rupee coal-pilferage scam related to Eastern Coalfields Limited mines in West Bengal's Kunustoria and Kajora areas, in and around Asansol.

Govt renominates Harivansh as RS deputy chairman

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Harivansh Narayan Singh

The Modi government has set the ball rolling for the re-election of Harivansh, who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha last week, as Deputy Chairman later this week, with Leader of the House JP Nadda reaching out to the Opposition seeking to build a consensus around him, sources said on Monday.

The election is likely to be held on April 17, the second day after Parliament reconvenes this Thursday, even as the Opposition questioned the "haste and hurry" in this matter, even as the ruling BJP has showed little concern in filling the post of Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha, which is lying vacant since 2019.

The Opposition will take a call on whether to field a candidate in the election for the post of Deputy Chairman, which fell vacant as Harivansh's previous term as a JD(U) MP ended last Thursday. Some parties are of the view that the post should not go uncontested.

During his tenure as Deputy Chairman earlier, Harivansh had earned the wrath of the Opposition over the way in which he presided over the passage of the contentious three Farm Bills, which were later withdrawn. The Opposition submitted a notice to remove him from the post of Deputy Chairman, but was rejected by the then Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

As Nadda reached out to parties, Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh said, "A government that does not appoint a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha for six years wants to bulldoze the appointment of a Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha in four days."

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien said on 'X', "Mocking Parliament again. Post of Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha vacant from 2019. Why is BJP in such a hurry to fill the post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, vacant only for 10 days. Why does the BJP want to have this election on April 17 when MPs are busy with polls in their states? Shameless."

Harivansh (69) has been a Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar since 10 April, 2014. He was reelected on 10 April, 2020, and his second term ended on Thursday, but the very next day, he was appointed as a nominated MP.

He could not get re-elected as his party JD(U), which had two seats allocated in the recent allocations, chose to bring Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and renominate Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur

The journalist-turned-MP was first elected to the post of Deputy Chairman on 9 August, 2018 in an election that saw him winning 125-105 against Congress' BK Hariprasad. After his term ended in April 2020, he was fielded once again when he returned to the House in an election on 14 September, 2020 in which he defeated RJD's Manoj K Jha in a voice vote.

Harivansh, who succeeded Congress' PJ Kurien after his retirement in July 2018, is the only third non-Congress Deputy Speaker with Republican Party of India's BD Khobragade (December 1969 to April 1972) and Samyukta Socialist Party's Godey Murahari (April 1972 to March 1977 in two terms). He had succeeded PJ Kurien of Congress after he retired in July 2018.

BAGALKOT UNIVERSITY
(State Public University of Govt. of Karnataka)
Mudhol Road, Jamkhandi-587301 Dist. Bagalkote
Mail ID: bgkujkd@gmail.com Office of the Registrar Tel.No.(08353) 295123
Website: https://bgku.karnataka.gov.in

BGKUJ/RO/2026-27/47 Date:13.04.2026

Press-Note

-: Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement):-

The Registrar, Bagalkot Univeristy, Jamkhandi invites Tender through e-procurement for Laptop for SC & ST Students of Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi from **13.04.2026** Desired eligible suppliers/Agency may apply before **08.05.2026 by 5.00 PM** through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further information kindly visit University website **http://bgku.karnataka.gov.in** or the Estate office at University

Sd/-
Registrar
Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO UROLOGY
(A Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute - Regd. No. 1052/03-04)
(A Post Graduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. Recognised by Medical Council of India)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru - 560 002. Ph. No.: 26700527, Telefax: 26706777
e-mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com Website: www.nephrourology.in

No.: INU/ADMN/PROC/110/2026 Date: 13.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects.

1. Procurement of Medical Equipments for Nephrology Department.
2. Procurement of Medical Equipments for Urology Department.

Last date for Online submission of Tender is 27.04.2026 at 5.30 p.m.

For any further details please log on to:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **www.nephrourology.in**

Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038. Ph No.: 080-25196124 | e-mail: info@kuidfc.com | website:www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2026-27/02/109 **Date: 10.04.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental compensation fund and SBM (U) 2.0 fundfor below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**)

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl. GST) Rs in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs in Lakhs
1	"Construction of Sewage Treatment Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of capacity 3.86 mld at **Chitguppa ULB** of Bidar District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U) - 2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model". **(Package:SBM/KLB/PKG-10).**	541.63	8.25
2	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of capacities 4.80 mld & 2.71 ml at **Karatagi & Kanakagiri ULBs** of Koppal District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U) - 2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM/KLB/PKG-11).**	995.88	15.00
3	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of capacities 5.80 mld 4.13 mld at **Wadi and Afzalpur ULBs** of Kalaburagi District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U) - 2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package:SBM/KLB/PKG-12)**	1366.90	14.00
4	Construction/Upgradation of Sewerage Treatment Plant & UGD system in **Koppal town** under Jalashuddi Mission NGT environment compensation fund & Swachh Bharat Mission - 2.0 (U) fund on DBOT model. **(SBM_KLB_PKG-13).**	3029.46	31.00
5	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of varying capacities of 1.83 to 3.78 MLD at **Maski, Turavihala & Balaganur ULBs** of Raichur District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer(DBOT) model **(Package: SBM_KLB_PKG-14).**	1272.25	13.00
6	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of capacity of 3.03 & 3.37 MLD at **Aurad & Hallikheda-B ULB** of Bidar District 2.26 & 3.56 MLD at **Yelburga & Kushtagi ULB** of Koppal District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U) -2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM_KLB_PKG-7). Call-3**	1521.50	15.50
7	Construction of 0.55 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in **Bagepalli town** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under SBM (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model	179.04	3.00
8	Construction of Sewage Systems **in Sagar (Phase-2) & Hosanagar towns** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under NGT Environmental & Compensation and SBM (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model **(Package: SBM_BLR_Pkg-6)**	1,367.78	14.00
9	Construction of 8.61 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in **Hiriyur town** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under SBM (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model.	1,421.17	15.00
10	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of varying capacities of 2.41 to 4.50 MLD at **Ameengada, Keruru& Badami ULBs** of Bagalkot District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM_BGM_Pkg-12)**	1790.80	18.00
11	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of capacities of 3.33 & 5.02 MLD at **Ankalagi-Akkatangerahaala& Harogeri ULBs** of Belagavi District along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model **(Package: SBM_BGM_Pkg-13)**	1452.85	15.00
12	Construction of 3.50 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in **Birur town** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model.	389.36	6.00
13	Construction of various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Kinnigoli and Vittal towns** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model. **(Package: SBM_MYS_Pkg-1)**	935.87	15.00
14	Construction of various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Belur & Sakleshpura towns** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model. **(Package: SBM_MYS_Pkg-2)**	689.35	11.00
15	Construction of various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Hanur, Kushalnagar & Virajpet towns** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model. **(Package: SBM_MYS_Pkg-3)**	1036.03	11.00
16	Construction of various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Arkalgud & Channarayapatna towns** SBM(U) 2.0 fund in DBOT model. **(Package: SBM_MYS_Pkg-4)**	737.48	12.00
17	Construction of various capacities of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Bantwal & Kundapura towns** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model. **(Package: SBM_MYS_Pkg-5)**	2453.60	25.00
18	Construction of Sewerage System in **Nagamangala town** under NGT fund in DBOT model.	1966.82	20.00
19	Construction of 200KLD Sewage Treatment Plant in **Maddur town** under SBM (U)-2.0 fund in DBOT model.	127.90	2.00
20	Construction of Sewerage Systems in **Kanakapura City** under NGT and SBM (U)-2.0 fund & **Ramanagara City** under NGT fund in DBOT model	4080.08	41.00

Tender Publish Date: 15.04.2026. Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **24.04.2026 Time:11.30 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **05.05.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **07.05.2026 Time:11.30 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **14.05.2026 Time:11.30 AM.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website (www.kuidfc.com) only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/JA/167/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
'BRIEF CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-I

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Providing Heavy Duty Motorised Horizontal Steel Sliding Door to Storage Building adjacent to AITF-2 at ISITE Campus, URSC Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/DOOR/1064/ETN-102M/2025-26 Dt.13.03.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 47.67 Lakhs
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 17:00 Hrs. on 24.04.2026
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 95,340/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
DEPARTMENT Office of Executive Engineer,
Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Belagavi
Near Krishna Devaraya Circle,
1" Floor of PRED Division, Nehru Nagar -590010

No.RDW&S/ BGM/PB-1,/TND-1/ KW-4 /2026-27/77 Dated:10.04.2026

ITEM RATE TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)

I) The Executive Engineer,RDW&S Division, Belgaum invites item rate tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State Government from the eligible contractors II) Indent Number:
Works participating in the contract of Schedule Tribe:-, Works participating in the contract of Schedule Caste:-,Works participating in the contract of Others:9222,9228, 9226, 9845, Works participating in the contract of CAT-II(A) :-,Works participating in the contract of CAT-I ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು:–,
1.Calendar events are as follows : i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting : 15-04-2026 at 11.30 Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Belagavi Near Krishna Devaraya Circle, 1st Floor of PRED Division, Nehru Nagar - 590010 ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal: 21-04-2026 before 17:00 hours.iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 22-04-2026 before 17:30 Hours iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : After Technical Bid approval IV) Amount put to Tender, EMD, work completion period, Class of contractor ,eligibility criteria are as published in e-procurement portal. (Including Rainy Season).

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Belgaum

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-91/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
(BHADRA COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MALAVAGOPPA, SHIVAMOGGA)
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಭ.ಕಾ/ವಿ–2/PMKSY/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/2026–27/09
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION IFT-02 (2026-27)

(Through KPPP-Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, Bhadra CADA, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga, The under signed invites tenders under the H/A 4701-PMKSY from Class-II and above contractors for the FIC work of Amount put to tender value Rs. **318.02** Lakhs, for the year 2025-26 The tenders are invited in KW-4 bid document through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and in Two cover system as per KTPP Act -1999 & rules 2000. The bidders can access to e-tender from **09-04-2026** to **23-04-2026** till 4.30 pm, Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications is **21-04-2026** till 4.30 pm. Technical bid will be opened on **24-04-2026** at 5.00 pm and the financial bid will be opened after the approval of Technical bid from Competent authority at the office of Executive Engineer, Engineering Division No-2, Bhadra CADA, Ranebennur.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Engineering Division-2, Bhadra CADA Ranebennur-581115.

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/40/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details		
1	Name of work	Civil Works for Modification of INSAT Building Entrance, Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017	Providing and Fixing of Acrylic/ Foam Boards for Various Locations at Main Campus, URSC and ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru	Civil Renovation Works for Accounts Conference Hall at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/01/2026-27, Dt.06/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/02/2026-27, Dt.06/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/03/2026-27, Dt.06/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.85 Lakhs	₹ 9.39 Lakhs	₹ 5.75 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Six Months	Twelve Months	Six Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 47,700/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 18,780/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 11,500/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details			
1	Name of work	Renovation of Existing Access Control at Gate-7, URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017	Civil works for Proposed Exhibition wall at 1st floor, Main Building, URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017	Renovation of SIG Conference Hall including Secretary Cabins of MDA and PD, SNP at Main Campus, URSC, Bengaluru-560017	Providing and Installing the Mosquito Mesh at Kendriya Vidyalaya, NAL Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/04/2026-27, Dt.10/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/05/2026-27, Dt.10/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/06/2026-27, Dt.10/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/07/2026-27, Dt.10/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.73 Lakhs	₹ 22.70 Lakhs	₹ 9.14 Lakhs	₹ 6.78 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Six Months	Six Months	Four Months	Two Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 47,460/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 45,400/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 18,280/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 13,560/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A law to cut the litigation clutter

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, passed by parliament, will help to decriminalise a large range of provisions in the statute book and rationalise punishments for many offences. It has amended 784 provisions across 79 central laws – thus reducing their obstructionist potential in many areas, including business – and decriminalised 717 provisions. The amendment covers laws in multiple sectors, including drugs and cosmetics, food safety, healthcare, commerce, industry, environment, and taxation, removing criminal sanctions such as imprisonment or fines and replacing them with civil mechanisms such as warnings and monetary penalties. Offences involving minor procedural violations that attract criminal penalties, particularly imprisonment, will be removed from the criminal code. They will attract reduced penalties and will be subjected to an adjudication mechanism with appellate provisions.

Importantly, the Bill separates deliberate misconduct from procedural non-compliance. It makes compliance simpler, especially for smaller enterprises and MSMEs, and seeks to provide institutional relief by reducing the lower judiciary's case burden. India's laws have supported a general tendency for both the public and the government to litigate. According to reports, around 50 million pending court cases involve minor offences, and most of them do not merit a court's intervention. Decriminalising such cases will unclog the courts. Graded responses, such as warnings and advisory notices – instead of prosecution for minor or first-time offences – are envisioned, along with adjudicating officers empowered to decide on cases against deadlines and appellate mechanisms to ensure fairness. Penalties will be periodically revised to retain their deterrent value, and digitisation and procedural simplification will help reduce inconsistencies in enforcement.

By decriminalising minor offences, the bill promises to unclog an overburdened judicial system

Over the last few years, the government has decluttered the statute book by eliminating many laws that have outlived their utility. Some of them were of colonial vintage. Though many laws are not commonly known or used, some continue to be wielded for their 'nuisance value'. Some of these laws have caused difficulties for common people in the form of long-drawn legal battles. Many businesses, small and big, have suffered from the use of such laws by government officials, adversaries, and others. They have caused immense loss of judicial time and waste of financial resources. Businesses have sometimes adopted excessively cautious and negative policies, fearing frivolous and prolonged litigation. The enactment of this legislation requires effective implementation. Many such initiatives lose momentum during enforcement due to strong vested interests, even within the government, that favour a *status quo* because current processes have entrenched their influence in the system.

System reset: The PUC turnaround

Karnataka's second Pre-University Course (PUC) results this year offer a rare moment of collective optimism in the state's education landscape. With an overall pass percentage of 86.48 – a sharp rise from last year's 73.45 – the improvement is substantive. At a time when public discourse often dwells on systemic failures, these results demonstrate what focused governance and academic discipline can achieve. Predictably, scepticism has centred on the decision to reduce the minimum pass percentage from 35 to 30. However, according to School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, of the 5,46,698 students who passed, only around 5,500 have benefited from this relaxation. The improvement, therefore, is rooted in deeper structural interventions. Several encouraging trends stand out. Girls have continued to outperform boys, but more striking is the edge secured by rural students over their urban counterparts. One of the most heartening aspects is the turnaround in government institutions. As many as 74 government PU colleges recorded a 100% pass rate, a dramatic jump from just 13 last year. This points to improved accountability and academic oversight. The stellar performance of residential institutions, particularly the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), further reinforces this narrative. With a pass percentage of 93.99, these colleges – catering to marginalised communities – have outperformed even private unaided institutions.

Results validate Karnataka's push towards stronger academic oversight, even as regional disparities persist

However, disparities persist, with at least 15 districts – nearly half of Karnataka – lagging behind the state average, though many have shown improvement over the last year. Yadgir, for instance, remains at the bottom with 71.21%, but it has climbed from a dismal 48.45% last year. In contrast, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Kodagu continue to dominate the upper tier. Notably, Vijayapura has emerged as the most improved district, leaping from 58.81% last year to an impressive 92%, underscoring what focused district-level interventions can achieve.

Policy interventions – including early syllabus completion and rigorous monitoring mechanisms – have created this turnaround. Crucially, the timely appointment of guest lecturers at the start of the academic year ensured that classrooms did not suffer from disruptive vacancies. Regular academic audits and increased lecturer accountability have ensured the system remained responsive throughout the year. The challenge now is to sustain this momentum while addressing the remaining gaps. Karnataka's PUC results are a reminder that with intent and execution, public education can deliver and benefit even the most marginalised.

NEW AWAKENINGS

Ambedkar and the quest for India's spiritual heritage

A historically grounded Dalit identity can anchor resistance to majoritarian nationalist narratives

HARISH S WANKHEDE

BR Ambedkar's engagement with the figure of the Buddha transcends conventional spiritual admiration and enters the realm of social and political transformation. By converting to Buddhism, Ambedkar did not simply seek a new deity; instead, he identified a historical rupture, imagining that the vehicle for social emancipation is hidden in the Indian past. He imagined the Buddhist era as the 'Golden Age' of egalitarianism that predated the consolidation of Brahmanical hegemony. This move was a strategic reclamation of history, positioning Dalits not as mere outcasts within the Hindu fold, but as the rightful inheritors of a robust civilisation that stood in direct opposition to the Brahmanical caste order.

With this attempt, Ambedkar demonstrated that in the past, Dalits inherited distinct social locations, intellectual traditions, and ethical prospects. Ambedkar's Navayana Buddhism has witnessed a discursive engagement across impressive socio-religious traditions from the past that offered Dalits an alternative cultural site to explore their spiritual quests. The Ravidassia movement in Punjab, the Adi-Dravida assertion in Tamil Nadu, and the Matua Mahasangha in Bengal embarked on a similar historical excavation of India's past to showcase that Dalits represent alternative civilisational and spiritual identities. Ambedkar's revival of Buddhism has highlighted that the nuanced cultural and spiritual traditions of marginalised social groups promote the values of equality, dignity, and social justice and reject their dehumanised social location.

Today, while the dominant Hindutva political assertion attempts to assimilate Dalits into a hyper-nationalist narrative, these movements emerge as an ideological resistance. The Dalit religious and cultural outfits have continued to assert that the Dalit identity is not a mere subset of the Hindu identity, but that they represent a distinct historical legacy and philosophical agency. Navayana Buddhism suggested that the utility of such a robust cultural past in modern times will complement the new ideals enshrined in the constitution. Furthermore, these emancipatory ideas would assist in building an impressive cultural resistance against the hegemonic Hindutva project of assimilation.

Before Ambedkar announced the mass conversion, the Matua Mahasangha shared a similar objective and opted to define the presence of the untouchables outside the Hindu fold. Rooted in the teachings of Harichand Thakur, this movement built a collective identity through independent rituals and community organisation, asserting a spiritual lineage and contesting the Brahmanical framework. It disturbed and challenged the Brahmin elite authority in religious rituals and promoted the ex-untouchables as equal inheritors

of spiritual solace. Similarly, the Ravidassia Movement of Punjab institutionalised Guru Ravidass's hymns and reinterpreted the *Amritbani* scripture to establish a sovereign spiritual counter-space (called *Begampura*) against the Hindu caste order. This was an assertive proclamation to introduce their separate spiritual and cultural path, independent of the exploitative caste hierarchies.

In southern India, the Adi-Dravida movement pushed the argument even further by claiming 'original inhabitant' status for the Dalits. By identifying as the pre-Aryan, pre-caste inhabitants of the land, they rejected the entire framework of the Hindu social order as an external imposition. This historical framing mirrors the Buddhist reclamation, suggesting that their subaltern identity is a product of the caste system, yet they are the survivors of a grand civilisation that existed before it.

Ambedkar's 'Navayana' envisioned a community that would reclaim its ancient intellectual prowess to navigate the modern world. This was not an attempt to reform Hinduism but to demonstrate that a superior, more rational Indian tradition existed long before the current orthodoxies took hold. These symbols became instruments of resistance, fostering a sense of belonging that was entirely autonomous from the Hindu social landscape.

A return to the roots

The mass conversion of 1956 was far more than a change of faith; it was a radical counter to the depressing diktats of the Hindu social order. The 22 vows administered during the conversion ceremony at Nagpur functioned as a formal declaration of independence from Hindu orthodoxy. These were not mere spiritual promises but a decisive, radical break intended to purge the Dalit consciousness of passive untouchable identity. By framing conversion as a 'return to their own intellectual roots', Ambedkar provided Dalits with a powerful historical memoir. He thus supplemented the impressive religious-spiritual movements offered by the Dalits, as it elevated them with a new consciousness about their past, offered an ethical worldview, and showcased their readiness to completely bypass the need for Brahmanical mediation.

In the post-Ambedkar period, though these movements offered an interconnected social life, they failed to emerge as a unified transformative project of the subaltern castes. In their regional specificities, they have constructed a vibrant cultural autonomy for the Dalits, often resisting the Brahmanical accommodation in the unequal caste order. However, the possibility that such spiritual and intellectual awakenings would provide impetus to a radical social transformation against caste division hasn't effectively materialised. Instead, the Hindutva cultural project has taken the centre-stage in the discourse of India's ancient past, spirituality, and social reforms. Right-wing nationalism is appropriating the cultural symbols of the Dalit religious movement to build an emotive equivalence.

The spiritual-religious traditions for the emancipation of the Dalits could have emerged as an impressive ideological force to examine India's cultural past and to resist its appropriation by Hindutva ideologues. By denouncing the hegemonic leadership of the conventional social elites and by placing the worst-off social groups as the key articulators of cultural values, nationalism, and social order, the alternative Dalit traditions can become an organic intellectual resistance against the Brahmanical Hindutva project.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The letter in the halls of justice

What began with a mosquito ended with a High Court order

VIJAYKUMAR H K

In July 2024 I had no idea I was about to spark a legal firestorm. All I had was a raging fever, a laptop, and a desperate need to be heard. I live in Raichur, a place where monsoons often bring more mosquitoes than rainbows. That first week of July was already thick with tension: rumours of dengue spreading like wildfire across Karnataka, heartbreaking news of deaths in Bengaluru, and hospitals bursting at the seams. I had just returned from the capital after a family event, only to fall victim to the very menace sweeping the state: dengue.

The fever was relentless. The body aches were knives. But worse than the physical pain was the helplessness watching an entire system buckle while the government remained curiously quiet. In Bengaluru, I had seen it all: patients lying on stretchers in hallways, sanitation near collapse, and not a whisper of emergency response. It wasn't just a health crisis; it was a failure of duty. Lying on my cot in Raichur, soaked in sweat and frustration, one thought kept rising above the haze. Someone has to say something.

On July 8, 2024, still burning with fever but fuelled by anger, I typed out a letter to the editor of *Deccan Herald*. I called for the state government to declare a medical emergency and urged the formation of an expert-led task force and demanded mass awareness campaigns in schools and colleges, urgent mosquito control, and transparent data sharing.

On July 9, the newspaper published the letter. That should have been the end. But the universe had other plans.

The next morning, inside the soaring walls of the Karnataka High Court, Chief Justice N V Anjaria held up a copy of *DH* and read my letter aloud, verbatim, in open court.

Then he said something that sent chills down my spine even from miles away in Raichur: 'Letters to the Editor are the pulse of society. This letter reflects the voice of the people. The court cannot ignore it.' The Chief Justice invoked Article 226 of the Constitution. He took *suo motu* cognisance of the letter and converted it into a public interest litigation (PIL). July 10, 2024, was no longer just another monsoon morning; it was a date carved into the legal memory of Karnataka.

My letter was now a petition. The court fired off urgent notices to the government of Karnataka, the Department of Health and Family Welfare, and the erstwhile BBMP. They were ordered to respond immediately.

Were hospitals prepared? Was staff adequate? Had breeding grounds been cleared? Were awareness drives actually happening? The court reminded everyone that the right to health is a fundamental right under Article 21--neither a privilege nor a promise but a right.

Back in Raichur, I watched the story explode across news portals, television tickers and social media. I wasn't an activist. I was just a citizen with a fever and a keyboard. And the system had listened. Now, I revisit that day often. Not for pride but for what it represents: the astonishing power of a single voice. The power of journalism that still holds truth.

SPEAK OUT

Warning: If any of these (Iranian) ships come anywhere close to our blockade, they will be immediately eliminated, using the same system of kill that we use against the drug dealers on boats at sea. It is quick and brutal.

Donald Trump, US President

Violence is the last resort of the incompetent.

Isaac Asimov

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Indo-Pacific feels the ripples of war

A US distracted by Iran risks unsettling the region's power balance and creating strategic openings for China

GURJIT SINGH

The Iran crisis has demonstrated how interconnected regional conflicts are in an era of globalised security. Geographically separated confrontations in West Asia have tangible consequences for the Indo-Pacific, affecting deterrence, alliance cohesion, and economic stability. Is the United States underprepared for the Indo-Pacific? Is its strategic distraction in one theatre eroding credibility and capability in another? Certainly, no consultation with its friends in the Indo-Pacific happened while starting the war against Iran or when seeking an agreement.

The core concern is the apprehension of strategic overstretch. The US, the principal security provider in both West Asia and the Indo-Pacific, finds itself juggling demands on finite politico-military resources. The war demanded renewed deployments, attention, and logistical support in West Asia, drawing focus away from the rest of Asia. For Indo-Pacific partners, this is not an abstract concern but a concrete risk. Deterrence in the region depends on the perception of sustained US presence and preparedness. Any weakening of this perception introduces uncertainty at a time when China is expanding its military and economic influence.

This uncertainty affects the credibility of alliances. The Indo-Pacific security architecture is built on partnerships, with the US at its centre. Yet alliances are sustained not merely by formal commitments, but also by confidence in their efficacy, consistency, and prioritisation. The crisis raises difficult questions among key allies such as Japan and Australia. In Japan, constitutional constraints and public opinion impose limits on military engagement; there is visible discomfort with conflicts that lie outside its regional context. The crisis reinforces an anxiety in Tokyo that external involvement could diminish the US's ability to maintain its commitments in the Indo-Pacific.

Australia, traditionally among Washington's steadfast allies, responded with a strategic recalibration. Canberra is increasingly aware that reliance on a single external guarantor carries risks, particularly when that partner is distracted by simultaneous challenges across sectors. The war strengthened views within Australia for enhancing defence capabilities and regional partnerships, including with Japan and India. This does not signal a rupture in alliances, but rather an evolution toward a rebalancing of perceived responsibilities.

The crisis underscored the need for Japan, Australia, and India to assume greater agency in shaping their security environments. Japan's shift towards increased defence spending and expanded operational roles, and Australia's investments in long-range capabilities and strategic infrastructure, both recognise that regional stability cannot rest indefinitely on external intervention. For India, the implications are significant. The doctrine of strategic autonomy gains renewed relevance when great power attention wavers. India's ability to act autonomously while maintaining flexible relationships is a critical aspect of Indo-Pacific resilience. These are important aspects, since Quad partners in the region now need to act in cohesion without awaiting US concurrence or participation.

The inability of the US's GCC partners to draw protection from aligning with the US in this unnecessary war also has lessons for countries in the Indo-Pacific.

Outcomes are intertwined

Another element of the crisis is the strategic opportunity it creates for China. Beijing seeks to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific, and the US's distraction opens space for gains. Even a temporary diversion can shift the strategic calculus, emboldening assertive behaviour in areas like the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. China can leverage economic and diplomatic tools to deepen regional influence, making the crisis a broader test of power balance.

Energy security is a critical lesson for countries like India and Japan. Beyond China+1 supply strategies, they now need a West Asia+1 approach to reduce oil and gas dependence. Indo-Pacific reliance on West Asian energy makes the Hormuz dilemma economically significant. Rising prices, supply risks, and shipping vulnerabilities create pressures. This underscores the need for diversified sources, strategic reserves, and secure sea lanes.

The war exposes a structural issue in strategic evolution: the persistence of compartmentalised thinking. The tendency to treat West Asia and the Indo-Pacific as separate theatres is no longer the reality of interconnected geoeconomics. Military deployments, energy markets, alliance dynamics, and strategic signalling are intertwined. A crisis in one region reverberates across others, altering perceptions and influencing decisions beyond its vicinity. The warning that the US is underprepared for the Indo-Pacific is, in this sense, not merely about military capability but the absence of an integrated, cross-theatre strategy. The divisions among the US Central and Indo-Pacific commands do not reflect the reality of globalisation.

The conflict in Iran serves as a reminder that Indo-Pacific stability cannot be insulated from global developments. It emphasises the necessity for adaptability, diversification, and strategic realisation in an increasingly complex international environment.

(The writer has served as India's ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, and Ethiopia)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A singer with few equals

I refer to 'Voice of versatility and charm falls silent' (Apr 13). Asha Bhosle's passing marks the end of a remarkable musical journey spanning eight decades. Over the years, Bhosle carved a distinct identity in the Hindi film industry. Asha proved herself several times as a singer with few equals. Her collaboration with composers like O P Nayyar and R D Burman resulted in several chartbusters, most of which continue to enthral. Asha sang in all the south Indian languages and rendered songs in Bengali, Marathi, English and Spanish as well. She received the highest honour in Indian cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and deservedly won many national and state awards.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Reckless incoherence

This refers to 'Trump threatens to block Hormuz after talks fail' (Apr 13). President Trump's declaration that the US Navy will begin "blockading any and all ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz" is catastrophic posturing masquerading as strategy. The Strait carries over one-fifth of the world's seaborne oil. Unilaterally choking it weaponises energy, spiking prices and punishing allies already refusing to join the blockade. Threatening to "take out Iran in one day" while claiming negotiations "went well" reveals reckless incoherence. Blockades are acts of war under international law. Imposing one risks regional conflagration.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Recruit staff

Apropos 'Make banking work for senior citizens' (Apr 13), while the RBI has initiated commendable measures to help the elderly, their implementation is patchy, as banks grapple with a lack of staff. The government must recruit sufficient staff to manage the counters in banks and deliver other services efficiently.

S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

Uneasy trade-offs: The Northeast's tussle between ethnicity and economy

CHIRANJIB HALDAR

When we are taught contemporary economic theories, the development prism operates through market exchange, private ownership and capital accumulation. However, this notion offers limited insight into socio-economic realities of tribal societies. In the Seven Sisters of the Northeast and Sikkim, formal recognition of tribal rights serves as a vital mechanism for underpinning cultural pride and preserving indigenous traditions. Such institutional support thwarts historical marginalisation and the continuing attrition of distinct tribal identities amid modernisation. Understanding these societies through market-oriented economies raises several questions. Tribal communitarianism best reflects the lived experiences of ethnicities, whether in the Northeast or across the Eastern and Western Ghats.

Protected land occupancies and assured access to natural resources are vital for tribal sustenance, given their deep dependence on ecological assets. To address land alienation and transfers to non-tribal entities, various states have ratified specific laws. The Assam Land Revenues Regulations, amended in 1981, prohibit the transfer of land in tribal blocks to non-tribals. The Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960, stipulates that land owned by Scheduled Tribes cannot be transferred to non-STs without prior permission of the deputy commissioner. However, this Act does not extend to certain hill regions—a factor contributing to the ongoing turmoil in the state. The Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873, promulgated along similar lines, is in force in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Mainstream economic theories, such as Marxism, evaluate production systems in terms of private ownership, class relations and the appropriation of surplus value. In contrast, tribal life is founded on ethics such as mutual cooperation, collective responsibility and ecological balance. In remote villages of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh or Nagaland, economic activities are carried out through collective labour: the landowner provides food, while the community contributes workmanship. This is not a wage relationship but a form of symbiosis rooted in social responsibility.

Production in such societies is oriented not solely towards profit but towards sustaining community life. In Manipur or Nagaland, the hereditary Kuki chiefs control land and allocate fair shares to households for cultivation. Among the Nagas, village councils control land, with chiefs often elected. Tribal societies are not relics of the past; they represent alternative socio-economic systems.

Although the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution identifies the singularity of tribal societies, its enactment remains weak. For instance, the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, is a landmark law that encompasses self-governance for tribal communities in Fifth Schedule Areas, empowering Gram Sabhas to manage natural resources, protect traditions and approve development projects. The Forest Rights Act, 2006, seeks to correct historical injustices by granting land and resource rights to forest-dwelling communities. Written jurisprudence often clashes with oral traditions of tribal communities, complicating the delivery of justice. In Naga society, for instance, entrenched gender disparities persist across several domains.

Large infrastructure projects and extractive activities such as mining, timber extraction and hydroelectric development often generate lopsided, adverse impacts on tribal communities. Article 371C provides special provisions for Manipur, including the establishment of a Hill Areas Committee within the state legislature, comprising members elected from tribal-dominated regions. Just as customary law in tribal societies extends far beyond a formal legal framework and is embedded in the cultural ethos, land, forests, water resources, and biodiversity are not merely means of production but the foundation of tribal culture, identity and social organisation.

However, not everything is ideal. Data suggests instances of a Garo or a Naga owning vast tracts of land. Such concentration of land runs contrary to customary practices, but hitherto unknown trappings like absentee landlordism, rent extraction from forest land, and sharecropping have emerged. There are instances of Assam's Karbi Anglong tribals securing land deeds with official blessings either from the headman or the Autonomous District Council. Field observations in interior Assam and Nagaland reveal influential, educated and networked Dimasas owning large holdings under the guise of homestead plantations. Similar patterns are seen among Akas in Arunachal's West Kameng district and Angamis in Nagaland.

There is another dimension to tribal development models. Efforts to transition communities from *jhum* (shifting cultivation) to settled agriculture have introduced wet rice cultivation and dairy farming. Paddy cultivation is generally done by migrant peasants hailing from riparian Bangladesh, while dairy farming in the hills depends largely on Nepali labour. Over time, such non-tribal cultivators may become *de jure* owners by cultivating land for decades. These claims sometimes extend to unoccupied common lands with the connivance of local tribal brokers.

A report by the Manab Adhikar Sangram Samity, a human rights group in Assam, highlights how this economic strategy indirectly fostered insurgency. Tribal communitarianism in the Northeast thus appears Janus-faced. On the one hand, we further the economic imperative by utilising the cultural affinities and common resources of the region; on the other, we do brisk business across India's borders in the Northeast not with *in situ* goods but using the region as a conduit in the trade process.

(The writer is a commentator on politics and society)

China, the US, Russia and others have ramped up their contest over AI-backed weapons and military systems- a buildup comparable to the dawn of the nuclear weapons age

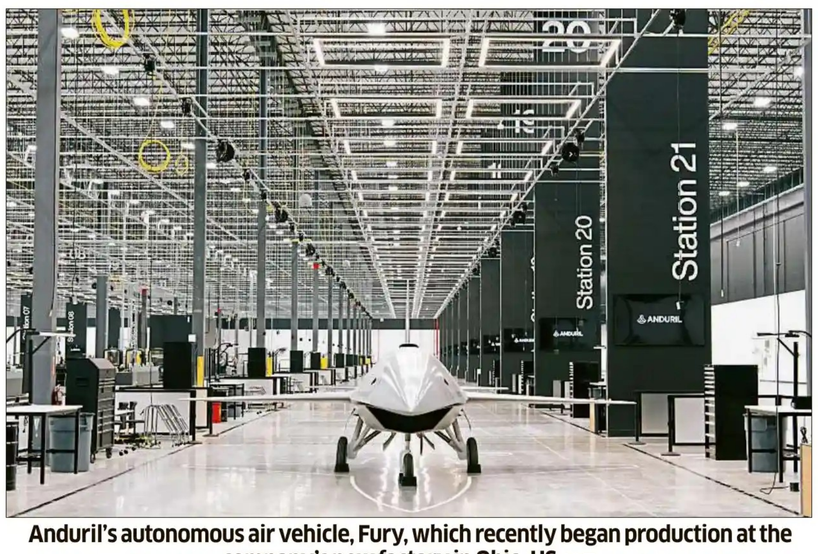
Automated destruction: The escalating global AI arms race

SHEERA FRENKEL, PAUL MOZUR AND ADAM SATARIANO

At a military parade in Beijing in September, President Xi Jinping and his special guests, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, watched as Chinese forces showed off several models of drones that could autonomously fly alongside fighter jets into battle.

The demonstration of technological might immediately set off alarm bells in the United States. Pentagon officials concluded that America's programme for unmanned combat drones was lagging China's, according to three US defence and intelligence officials. Russia, too, was thought to be ahead in building facilities that could produce advanced drones, said the officials, who were not authorised to speak publicly on military capabilities.

US officials pushed domestic defence companies to step up. Last month, Anduril, a defence technology startup in California, began manufacturing artificial intelligence-backed, self-flying drones that appeared similar to the ones shown in China. Production at a factory outside Columbus, Ohio, started three months ahead of schedule, part of an effort to close the gap with China, one defence official said.



Anduril's autonomous air vehicle, Fury, which recently began production at the company's new factory in Ohio, US. NYT

China's military display and the US countermove were part of an escalating global arms race over AI-backed autonomous weapons and defence systems. Designed to operate by themselves using AI, the technology reduces the need for human intervention in decisions like when to hit a moving target or defend against an attack.

In recent years, many nations have quietly engaged in a contest of one-upmanship over these arsenals, including drones that identify and strike targets without human command, self-flying fighter jets that coordinate attacks at speeds and altitudes that few human pilots can reach, and central systems run by AI that analyse intelligence to recommend airstrike targets quickly.

The US and China, the world's largest military powers, are at the centre of the competition. But the race has widened. Russia and Ukraine, now in their fifth year of war, are looking for every technological advantage. India, Israel, Iran and others are investing in military AI, while France, Germany, Britain and Poland are rearming amid doubts about the Trump administration's commitment to NATO.

Each nation is aiming to amass the most advanced technological stockpile in case they need to fight drone against drone and algorithm against algorithm in ways that people cannot match, defence and intelligence officials said. Russia, China and the US are all building AI arms as a deterrent and for "mutually assured destruction," Palmer Luckey, Anduril's founder, said in an interview in February.

The buildup has been compared to the dawn of the nuclear age in the 1940s, when the atomic bomb's destructive power forced rival nations into an uneasy standoff, leading to more than four decades of nuclear weapons brinkmanship.

But while the implications of nuclear weapons are well understood, AI's military capabilities are just beginning to be known. The technology—which does not need to pause, eat, drink or sleep—is set to upend warfare by making battles faster and more unpredictable, officials said.

Exactly which nation is furthest ahead is unclear. Operatives from China, the United States and Russia watch one another's factory lines, military displays and weapons deals to deduce what the other is doing, intelligence officials said.

China and Russia are experimenting with letting AI make battlefield decisions on its own, two US officials said. China is developing systems for dozens of autonomous drones to coordinate attacks without human input, while Russia is building Lancet drones that can circle in the sky and autonomously pick targets, they said.

Even as the specifics of the technologies remain veiled, the intentions are clear. In 2017, Putin declared that whoever leads in AI "will become the ruler of the world." Xi said in 2024 that technology would be the "main battleground" of geopolitical competition. In January, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth directed all branches of the US military to adopt AI, saying they needed to "accelerate like hell."

Billions of dollars are being poured into the efforts. The Pentagon requested more than $13 billion for autonomous systems in its latest budget, and has spent billions more over the past decade, though the total is difficult to track because AI funding has been spread across programmes.

China, which some researchers said was spending amounts comparable to those of the US, has used financial incentives to spur private industry to build AI capabilities. Russia has invested in drone and autonomy-related programmes, analysts said, using the war in Ukraine to test and refine them on the battlefield.

Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said China had proposed international frameworks for governing military AI and called for "a prudent and responsible attitude" toward its development. The Pentagon and Russia's Ministry of Defence did not respond to requests for comment.

The dynamics may resemble the Cold War, but experts cautioned that the AI era was different. Startups and investors now play a role in the military and are as critical as universities and governments. AI technology is becoming widely available, opening the door for countries from Turkey to Pakistan to develop new capabilities. What's emerging is a grinding innovation race without any obvious endpoint.

Ethical questions about ceding life-or-death choices to machines are being overtaken by the rush to build. The only major accord on AI weaponry between China and the US was reached in 2024, a nonbinding pledge to maintain human control over the decision to use nuclear weapons. Other countries, like Russia, have made no commitments. Some argued that AI's impact would be bigger than any arms race.

"AI is a general-purpose technology like electricity. And we don't talk about an electricity arms race," said Michael Horowitz, a former Pentagon official involved in autonomous weapons development. "To the extent AI is transforming our military, it's the way that electricity or computers or the airplane did."

In 2016 at an air show in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai, a Chinese supplier flew 67 drones in unison. Russia, too, was building its drone arsenal. In 2014, its military planners set a goal of making 30% of its combat power autonomous by 2025. By 2018, the Russian military was testing an unmanned armed vehicle in Syria. While the tank failed, losing its signal and missing targets, it underscored Moscow's ambitions.

In Washington, Lt Gen Jack Shanahan was assessing whether AI could solve a more immediate problem. The US military was collecting so much data—drone footage, satellite imagery, intercepted signals—that nobody could make sense of it all.

"There was nothing in any of the research labs in the military that were capable of generating results in less than a couple of years," Shanahan said. "We had a problem we could not solve without AI."

In 2017, Shanahan helped create Project Maven, a Defence Department effort for the military to incorporate AI into its systems. One aim was to work with Silicon Valley to build software to swiftly process images like drone footage for intelligence purposes. Google was tapped to help. But the project quickly ran into hurdles. The Pentagon's procurement system, built around legacy contractors and long timelines, slowed things down.

When word spread inside Google about Project Maven, employees protested, saying a company that had once pledged "Don't be evil" should not help identify targets for drone strikes. Google eventually backed away from the project.

In 2019, Palantir, a data analytics company co-founded by tech investor Peter Thiel, took over Maven. New defence tech startups like Anduril also emerged, supplying the federal government with AI-backed sensor towers along the southern US border.

In China, Beijing pushed commercial tech companies towards defence partnerships in a strategy called "civil-military fusion." Private firms were drawn into military procurement, joint research and other work with defence institutions. Companies working on drones and unmanned boats found growing military demand for their technologies.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 turned theory into reality.

Outgunned, outspent and outnumbered, Ukraine held off Russia with an improvised arsenal of cheap technology. Hobbyist racing drones were used to attack Russian positions on the front lines, eventually becoming more lethal than artillery and, in some cases, gaining autonomous capabilities. Remote-controlled boats kept Russia's Black Sea fleet pinned down. Russia adapted as well. Its Lancet drone, which was initially piloted by humans, has incorporated autonomous targeting features.

In recent months, Ukraine began sharing its troves of battlefield data with Palantir and other firms so AI systems can better learn to fight wars.

China also advanced. At the 2024 Zhuhai Airshow, Norinco, one of the country's main defence manufacturers, revealed multiple weapons with AI capabilities. One of its systems showed an entire brigade, including armoured vehicles and drones, controlled and operated by AI.

A week after US and Israeli forces struck Iran in February, a senior Pentagon official gave a glimpse into what computerised warfare now looks like at a conference livestreamed by Palantir. A satellite feed showed a warehouse.

With the click of a mouse, an officer selected a row of white trucks parked outside to target in real time. In seconds, the AI software suggested a weapon, calculated fuel and ammunition needs, weighed the cost and generated a strike plan.

It was the present-day version of Project Maven, which Shanahan had started and was now run by Palantir and powered by commercial AI. The system analysed intelligence from various sources, generated target lists ranked by priority and recommended weapons, all but eliminating the lag between identifying a target and destroying it.

The New York Times

FCRA Bill needs close scrutiny

STANLEY CARVALHO

The proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha recently, is coercive, unfair and poses a threat to organisations that have contributed significantly towards nation-building.

Masked as a move in the interest and security of the country, it appears to be an attempt to arbitrarily control non-governmental organisations (NGOs), diminish their autonomy and escape scrutiny and accountability. The Bill seeks to amend the FCRA Act, 2010, under which registration is mandatory for NGOs and associations to receive foreign funds or donations.

The FCRA, originally enacted in 1976 and comprehensively replaced in 2010, has been amended in 2016, 2018, and 2020, each time tightening the regulatory framework for foreign-funded organisations.

When the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, Opposition parties vociferously opposed it, demanding its withdrawal. Discussion and passage were deferred, also perhaps due to the elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where Christians and Muslims hold sway.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs' portal, around 15,000 organisations are currently registered under the FCRA, while the registration of nearly 22,000 organisations has been cancelled and that of around 15,000 more organisations deemed expired.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said the amendments to the Bill were in the national interest and aimed at preventing the misuse of foreign funds in ways that could "harm national security". If it is so, the minister must outline cases relating to misuse of foreign funds by NGOs and how they have harmed the country's security. Transparency and accountability are crucial here.

A key proposed change allows the central government (Ministry of Home Affairs) to appoint a "designated authority" to take over, manage, or dispose of the assets created out of foreign funds by NGOs whose FCRA registration has been suspended, cancelled, or not renewed. The authority will have the power of a civil court and can order the transfer or sale of assets owned by NGOs to either the government or any other body.

Moreover, the amendment casts the net wider while defining the 'key functionary' of an NGO. It goes beyond office bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the *karta* of a Hindu undivided family, governing body members or anyone controlling or managing the organisation and makes them liable for FCRA offences unless they can prove otherwise. Expanding liability to include so many 'key functionaries' introduces a presumption of culpability unless proven otherwise.

The Bill, if passed, has wide ramifications. If an organisation loses its FCRA licence, the designated authority can seize the assets of that organisation and use them. Hence, effectively, and ironically, the central government grants itself sweeping powers—unjust and unreasonable—to grant the FCRA licence as well as withdraw it and assume control over those organisations.

Critics have raised concerns of blatant abuse of the legislation and undue interference in the internal management and service mission of these organisations. Minority institutions, particularly Christian organisations, are likely to be impacted the most given the vast number of educational institutions, hospitals, churches and social outreach centres that they manage.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) acted swiftly, urging the Union home minister and Members of Parliament to reconsider the bill, citing "serious concerns about constitutional balance, civil society freedom and the future of charitable service in India."

The CBCI has expressed fears that if registration is cancelled and foreign funds and assets vest in the designated authority, it could penalise organisations unfairly. It called for wider consultation and clear safeguards to uphold due process and judicial oversight.

Condemning the amendment bill, the All-India Christian Council alleges the Bill appears a ploy to take over properties and assets run by Christian institutions.

The larger consequence is the human impact of the proposed amendments. When charitable organisations are constrained, the greatest impact is borne not by the organisations but by the beneficiaries who depend on them, not least the poor, the marginalised communities, Dalits and tribals.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who described the Bill as "truly pervasive", has called for resisting it through legal means, demanding at minimum that it be referred to a select committee for further scrutiny.

In the interests of safeguarding civil society and protecting the autonomy of charitable, educational and religious institutions, it is necessary that an independent appellate authority be set up to ensure impartial adjudication. Will the government pay heed?

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based independent journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Cong panel averse to court review of statute changes

New Delhi, April 13
The seven-member Committee on the Constitutional Changes, headed by Mr. Swaran Singh, has proposed that a new clause be inserted in Article 368 to the effect that any amendment of the Constitution shall not be called in question in any court on any ground. The committee in its preliminary report has also recommended important changes relating to the power of judicial review and the powers of High Courts to issue directions, orders or writs under Article 226.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Centre 'sends' Pawar to break Kashmir impasse

Srinagar, April 13
The Centre has opened backdoor channels to rope in separatist leaders for a dialogue in a bid to break the stalemate and solve the vexed Kashmir issue. Former Union defence minister and President of NCP Sharad Pawar was camping here for the last three days to prepare a ground for future talks with the separatists. Though Mr Pawar described his visit as private, political observers see more than what meets the eye.

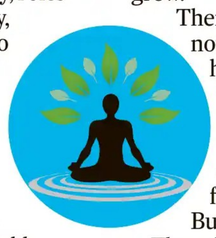
OASIS | ACHARYA PRASHANT

The age of emotional fragility

We live in what is probably the most comfortable era our species has known. No famine stalking entire regions, no plagues emptying cities, no wild animals circling the camp at night. In practical terms, the body is safer than it has ever been. And yet something in us seems permanently on edge. A colleague's tone lingers in the mind long after the conversation has ended. A careless remark from a friend quietly ruins the evening. We carry mental hurts the way earlier generations carried physical injuries, sometimes even longer.

Why does it happen so easily?

Because we are not only bodies. We also carry a certain picture of ourselves, a kind of running story. It is made of many borrowed things: opinions picked up along the way, roles we gradually learned to play, impressions we have tried to maintain in front of others. We call it 'my' reputation, 'my' sensitivity, 'my' way of understanding the world.



So when someone's words brush against one of these fragile constructions, something inside reacts quickly and often intensely. The body is not under attack; what has been touched is only the story. And the story, unlike the body, has no natural mechanism for recovery. The body knows how to heal, the story only knows how to grow.

There is something else worth noticing. The body produces honest physical responses to whatever life brings: a tightening in the chest, a flush of heat, a sudden rush of energy. Left alone, these feelings pass on their own. But we rarely leave them alone. The mind moves in immediately and builds an explanation around them: 'my' hurt, 'my' grievance. What was only a passing sensation slowly becomes part of a biography.

So perhaps the problem is not weakness. Perhaps it is attachment to a story that was always more fragile than we realised.

The next time something inside flares up, a simple question might help: What exactly was threatened here? Not asked harshly, just with curiosity. Which part of the story felt it could not survive this moment? Sometimes that question loosens something quietly.

The reaction may still arise, but it does not hold us as tightly. And in that small loosening, it is not just the hurt that eases, but the story too.

Top court seeks EC's response on biometric voting plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Election Commission, the Centre and states on a PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking directions to implement a finger and iris biometric identification system at polling stations to prevent electoral malpractices such as duplicate voting, impersonation and ghost voting.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi sought responses from the poll panel, the Union government and others after hearing the petitioner.

The plea said the harm to citizens remained significant as bribery, undue influence, personation, duplicate voting and ghost voting continue to affect the purity and integrity of the electoral process.

It stated that free and fair elections form part of the basic structure of the Constitution and that any gap in identity verification directly impacts the legitimacy of electoral outcomes. By introducing biometric validation, the Election Commission could significantly strengthen the integrity and accuracy of the election process, it contended.

"Therefore, to uphold the constitutional mandate of free and fair elections, the Election Commission may consider implementing finger and iris biometric authentication at polling booths in upcoming Assembly elections. This may be implemented along lines similar to Aadhaar-based identification, which has been recognised as valid proof of identity under Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The Election Commission has plenary power to implement biometric authentication," the plea stated.

The petition said the adoption of finger-iris biometric verification would ensure that only genuine and duly registered electors are allowed to vote, thereby preventing bribery, undue influence, personation, duplicate and ghost voting.

It further argued that biometric identifiers are unique and difficult to fabricate, ensuring the principle of "one citizen, one vote".

No timeline to complete SIR Bengal appeal hearings: Supreme Court

Says it can't burden judges; might consider plea for supplementary lists

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

While hearing the petitions against the SIR in West Bengal on Monday, the Supreme Court declined to pass any order fixing a timeline for the 19 appellate tribunals to decide the appeals of deleted voters.

Around 700 judicial officers from West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand are deployed to adjudicate over 60 lakh objections of those excluded from the voter list.

It was argued that 16 lakh appeals have been filed before appellate tribunals and it is not possible to dispose of these appeals before the elections.

The bench, however, noted that as per the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice's report as of April 11, there were over 34 lakh appeals.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, on behalf of some of the petitioners, argued that if the appellate tribunals, which have just started functioning, show substantial progress over the next week, then surely some supplementary list can be allowed.

The court opined that it might consider the plea to allow the publication of supplementary rolls to include persons whose appeals are allowed before the elections.

Senior advocate D S Naidu, the EC's counsel, contended the appeals could go on so that the appellants have their right vindicated, if at all they could. Senior advocate Kalyan Bandyopadhyay, appearing for petitioners, said April 23 is the poll day of the first phase and all those appeals pertaining to the first phase could be disposed of by April 20.

One of the petitioners' counsels also asked whether the appeals will be decided within a time frame.

To this, the bench asked if the counsel wanted it to put the former CJs and judges under pressure. "Deploy officers where there was a trust deficit between the state and the constitutional entity. These judicial officers will undertake a verification, but [with] the volume they had to do; there was always a chance of error. Just consider, going through 1,000 documents a day. Speaking for myself, if the accuracy rate is 70%, I'll rate the activity excellent. This is the pressure at which judicial officers have worked. There will always be a margin of error," the court said.

The petitioner's counsel said the EC was not even placing orders before the appellate tribunal and urged the bench to extend the freezing of the electoral roll. In response, the bench asked the counsel to move the issue before the appellate tribunal.

Bandyopadhyay said an impression has been given that all pending cases have been adjudicated.

The bench said the persons whose claims were adjudicated by April 9, the date when the rolls were frozen, could vote on April 23.

"In 153 constituencies, the last date of nomination was April 6, and the list was published on the night of April 6. There was some spill over on April 7 or 8. Those names will be included in the electoral roll for the April 23 poll, don't worry if their names are there, they will be voting," the bench said.

Bandyopadhyay said the people of Bengal are looking towards the top court for relief. He said, "Deprivations are so much, 34 lakh appellants, they are genuine voters, that is the reason they are looking towards you not the EC".

Check political background, NIA told

In a related suo motu matter, the NIA submitted a status report in connection with its probe into the gherao of judicial officers in Malda district on April 1 by those protesting their deletion from the voters' list. The bench asked the agency to inform it about the political background of the accused persons. "We want to know if any of these people arrested had any political background. We don't want this to be an academic exercise. This has to be taken to a logical conclusion," the bench said.

No serious LPG shortage reported by auto-part makers so far: Govt

Says efforts on to ensure uninterrupted gas supply

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government on Monday said it was closely monitoring the LPG supply situation for the auto-component industry, and asserted that no serious shortages had been reported so far.

Insisting that the Ministry of Heavy Industries was in constant touch with the Auto Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), a senior official said the government was taking all necessary steps along with the Ministry of Petroleum to ensure an uninterrupted gas supply.

"Component manufacturers have not reported any serious LPG supply shortage," Ministry of Heavy Industries Additional Secretary Hanif Qureshi told reporters here.

"LPG is used in the component-manufacturing industry, and the government is in touch with the ACMA and other industry associations. We are taking all measures to ensure adequate supply is maintained, in coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum," he said.

Regarding alternative fuels and the emphasis on electric vehicles, the official observed that, apart from the Prime Minister's E-DRIVE scheme, which provides incentives to consumers for purchasing electric vehicles, the PLI auto scheme covers manufacturers.

"So both these schemes continue, along with the scheme to promote the manufacturing of rare-earth magnets, which will also improve the supply chain," he said.

Qureshi also said the government was committed to using biofuels wherever possible, with 20% ethanol blending already in place.

"There is also a programme of flex fuels, and the industry has already come up with models which are compliant with it. Flex fuels mean that engines from E-20 to E-85 can take that blend without any degradation in performance. So, we are seeing the development of four-wheelers as well as two-wheelers that are capable of using flex fuels. We are confident that the use of flex fuels will grow, which will also ease the pressure on the import of crude," he added.

Ambassador of Iran to India, Mohammad Fathali, during an exhibition titled "Angels of Minab", featuring children's drawings salvaged from the rubble of a girls' elementary school in Minab, in the wake of the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, at the Embassy of Iran, in New Delhi. PTI

Iranian crude arrives at Indian ports after 7 years

Two large tankers carrying Iranian crude oil have docked at Indian ports, marking the first such deliveries in almost seven years, reports DHNS.

According to ship tracking data, the Iran-flagged tanker Felicity arrived at Sikka Port on Gujarat's coast late on Sunday, carrying approximately 2 million barrels of crude loaded at Iran's Kharg Island in mid-March.

The second vessel, the Curacao-flagged tanker Jaya, has moored near Paradip Port on Odisha's east coast. It is carrying a similar volume of Iranian crude, loaded at Kharg Island in late February — before the recent US and Israeli military strikes on Iran.

The buyers of the cargoes reaching Indian coasts have not been formally disclosed.

Earlier the government also confirmed that a tanker carrying 44,000 tonnes of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas berthed at Mangalore on April 2.

Ready for peace, also ready for war, says Iran envoy

NEW DELHI, PTI: Iran is open to holding another round of peace talks with the US if it refrains from "unlawful demands" and accepts Tehran's conditions, Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali said Monday, as the US blockade of Iranian ports takes effect.

Fathali also responded to the US military blockade on shipping traffic entering and leaving Iranian ports saying Washington knows the capabilities of Iran and that Tehran is fully prepared for "all options".

"If you want progress in any diplomatic process, (both) sides should be ready for negotiations. And they should avoid unlawful demands," Fathali told a media briefing.

"Our high-ranking officials said we are ready for peace, we are ready for negotiations. But you should know that Iran is also ready for war," he said.

"They wanted to finish the war in three or four days, but the duration, the scope and the geography of the war are under our control. You can see this situation after the 42-day war," he said.

Delimitation real issue for special Parl session: Sonia

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday took on the Modi government over the special sitting of Parliament this week, saying the "real issue" behind the move is delimitation and not women's reservation, and that the reported proposal is "extremely dangerous" as well as an "assault" on the Constitution itself.

Sonia Gandhi

In a newspaper article, she said any delimitation involving an increase in strength of the Lok Sabha "must be politically and not just arithmetically equitable".

Her remarks came as Modi appealed to the opposition to support bills that the government intends to "bulldoze" in Parliament, at a time when poll campaign in Tamil Nadu and Bengal is "at its peak".

"There can be only one reason for the extraordinary hurry, which is to derive political advantage and place the Opposition on the defensive," she said, referring to the government rejecting the demand for an all-party meeting after the conclusion of the ongoing round of Assembly polls.

She recalled that Parliament unanimously passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, in September that year, mandating a 33% quota for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, to come into effect after the completion of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise.

She said, "The Opposition had not asked for this condition. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, had forcefully demanded that the reservation provision be implemented from the 2024 Lok Sabha elections itself."

"Now, we are given to understand that Article 334-A will be amended to make women's quota applicable from 2029 itself. Why did it take the PM 30 months to make U-turn? And why can he not wait a few weeks to convene the special session?" she asked.

One of the greatest decisions: PM on women's quota bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Calling the Central government's move to amend the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam — the women's reservation legislation — a historic decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told a group of women achievers that the amendment would be "one of the greatest" decisions of the 21st century.

Modi was addressing the women as part of the Nari Shakti Sanmelan organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The government has proposed to amend the legislation, passed in 2023, to delink it from the delimitation process and the ongoing Caste Census. A special session of Parliament has been convened this week to pass the amendment. The Opposition has questioned the government's intent, given that the move comes amidst Assembly polls in several states.

"The nation is about to take one of the greatest decisions of the 21st century... This is among the most significant decisions of our time, and is dedicated to women's power, to honouring women's strength," said Modi.

"From President to PM, wherever women have served, they have created their own legacy. Even today, from the President to the finance minister, women hold key positions in our country," he added.

He said that the Panchayati Raj institutions were an excellent example of leadership by women. "Today, more than 14 lakh women are successfully working in local government bodies across India. In 20-odd states, their participation in panchayats has reached almost 50%," he said.

Workers' stir over salary turns violent in Noida; 50 held

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The ongoing protest by workers from several private companies in Noida demanding higher salaries and other benefits turned violent on Monday, with protesters setting vehicles ablaze, damaging office property and engaging in heavy stone-pelting. Police had to use tear gas shells and carry out a lathi charge to disperse the crowd.

According to police sources, the situation remained tense, and additional security personnel were deployed to maintain law and order. Around 50 protesters were taken into custody in connection with the violence.

Several police personnel were injured in the violence and admitted to hospital. Vehicles, including those belonging to the police, were set ablaze.

Flames billow as a police bike is set ablaze by factory workers during a protest demanding a hike in wages, in Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar district, on Monday. PTI

The protests also triggered a massive traffic jam in Noida, with police diverting traffic at several points, causing major inconvenience to the public.

Sources said workers from several private firms had been agitating for the past few days, demanding salary hikes and other benefits. Many of their demands, including double-rate overtime pay and a Diwali bonus, were accepted by state government representatives on Sunday.

The workers, however, said their primary demand was to raise the minimum salary to Rs 26,000 per month, ensure adherence to labour laws and guarantee a weekly off. They claimed they were being paid Rs 500-700 per day, made to work 10-12 hours, and that such wages made it impossible to make ends meet.

The immediate trigger for the unrest was reportedly the Haryana government's decision to hike minimum wages. The epicentre of the protests was the industrial area in Phase Two, where hundreds of companies operate.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the government was committed to protecting workers' interests but cautioned against indulging in violence.

Truck mows down 7 pilgrims in Guj

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Seven people were killed as a speeding truck mowed down pilgrims in Gujarat on the Lakhtar–Viramgam highway in Surendranagar district

According to police, the victims were on foot as part of a religious pilgrimage when the truck ran over them.

The group of pilgrims were travelling on foot from Gadhka village in Rajkot to a temple in Dekawala. The accident occurred around 1.30 am on Monday

Police said that seven pilgrims, including five men and two women, were killed in the accident.

A senior police officer said a truck with a punctured tyre halted on the highway, forcing pedestrians to move towards the middle of the road. Another truck came from behind, and seven people came in between. Six people died on the spot.

Police said that the driver of the truck, who ran away from the spot, was arrested later and has been identified as Aditya Gokania.

"The mishap in Surendranagar district, Gujarat, is deeply distressing. Heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on X.

Revanth proposes 'hybrid model' for Lok Sabha delimitation

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy took a strong dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for portraying the enactment of the Women's Reservation Bill and the delimitation of constituencies as a single issue.

A Revanth Reddy

Demanding a debate in Parliament and all Assemblies and consultation with all parties on delimitation, he proposed a "hybrid model".

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Revanth wondered why the Centre was creating a sense of urgency by summoning a special session of Parliament to address both the delimitation of constituencies and the Women's Reservation Bill.

He alleged that the Centre was strategically moving to give the impression that the Opposition parties were not supporting women's reservation and delimitation. Referring to the Women's Reservation Bill, he emphasised that the law should be enacted only after the 2026 census.

Revanth also recalled that the Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi during the Congress rule. However, it did not get approval because BJP did not support it.

The hybrid model

On delimitation, Revanth proposed a "hybrid model": of the 272 seats proposed to be increased in the Lok Sabha, 136 should be allocated based on a pro-rata basis, and the remaining 136 should be allocated based on Gross State Domestic Product.

Priority should be given to states that contribute the largest share to the national gross output, he said.

Revanth also took strong objection to Modi's proposal of a 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats, saying that the disparity between Kerala (20 seats) and Uttar Pradesh (80 seats) would increase from 60 constituencies to 90, while that between Telangana and Uttar Pradesh would widen to 94.

The southern states hold 130 seats. If the increase were 50%, it would rise to only 195. The northern states holding 413 seats would have 621.

Nitish's successor pick divides BJP leaders

ABHAY KUMAR & AMRITA MADHUKALYA,
PATNA/NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as a sustained buzz surrounds Samrat Chowdhary for his possible appointment as the BJP's first chief minister in Bihar, party sources said a section of BJP leaders was unhappy with the development.

Surprisingly, the deputy chief minister has found support from members of NDA ally Janata Dal (United) and from an unlikely quarter — leaders of his former party, Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal.

JD(U) leaders, including former MP Anand Mohan and MLA Anant Singh, have supported Samrat. Anand told reporters that it was Nitish Kumar's wish that Samrat become his successor.

Samrat Choudhary

Besides, JD(U) MLA and Bihar minister Madan Sahni has been telling the media that he was informed that Samrat would be made the CM, while Nitish's son Nishant would be the deputy CM.

RJD MLC Sunil Kumar Singh, too, told the media that having Samrat as the CM would be helpful for them, as they had worked with him before.

This has made several BJP leaders unhappy. "Samrat is not liked by all sections of the party unit, and he has come to the party from RJD, so we believe that an ideologically attuned person should take over the mantle. This move is in the interest of both the JDU and the RJD, and we must take every step with utmost caution," a senior leader from the party's Bihar unit said.

Samrat started his career with the RJD and switched over to the JD(U) before eventually becoming the Bihar BJP president and the deputy CM. Currently, he holds the Home portfolio too.

"Nitish met his senior party leaders at the CM residence on Monday and discussed who could be part of the new government representing the JD(U).

"His son Nishant and senior minister Vijay Choudhary are the frontrunners for the deputy CM's post," said a senior ruling-party member.

Maha: Overloading alarm after 11 deaths

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A terrible road accident in Thane that killed 11 persons on Monday morning has raised concerns about overloading of passenger vehicles.

The accident took place between 11-11.30 am on NH-61, which connects Kalyan in Thane district and Ahilyanagar district.

The Eeco vehicle, with Maharashtra registration, collided with a cement mixer while crossing the Panjar bridge. All the deceased passengers, including three women and a teenager, were from Murbad, and they were on their way to Kalyan.

According to preliminary information, the MPV was carrying 11 passengers when the authorised capacity was 5+1.

THANE TRAGEDY

- The MPV was carrying 11 passengers when the capacity was 5+1
- Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said while the department takes action against illegal passenger transport, travellers too need to be cautious
- One passenger is in a critical condition

"A case has been registered in this regard and further investigation is underway," said state Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik.

The state's Motor Transport Department has been taking strict action against illegal passenger transport. "However, it is imperative for citizens to act responsibly to avoid such accidents. It is a humble request to avoid traveling in illegal and overcrowded vehicles, and to prioritise safe and regular travel," he added.

Condoling the deaths, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "The incident in which 11 people lost their lives... is extremely tragic. I pay my heartfelt tribute to them."

Nine of the 11 deceased, including the driver, have been identified. One was a revenue assistant in Murbad revenue office and one was a teenager. One person has been hospitalised in critical condition.

Asha Bhosle cremated with full state honours

Veteran singer's last wish was a farewell with 'Jai Hind'

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Police personnel and family members carry the mortal remains of singer Asha Bhosle during her last rites at a crematorium, in Mumbai, on Monday. PTI

A sea of humanity — commoners and celebrities alike — poured onto the streets to bid a tearful adieu to iconic singer Asha Bhosle, who regaled audiences with melodious numbers for eight decades.

Asha Tai, as she was popularly known, passed away on Sunday, aged 92, at the Breach Candy Hospital following multi-organ failure triggered by pulmonary issues and a cardiac issue.

Her last rites were held at the Shivaji Park crematorium in Dadar on Monday evening. The Maharashtra government accorded her state honours.

In the morning, the body was kept at her residence in the Casa Grande complex at the Senapati Bapat Marg in Lower Parel, where family, friends, and people from various walks of life paid their tributes.

Draped in the national flag, the body was then taken to Shivaji Park in a vehicle adorned with white and yellow flowers and a large photograph of her.

At the crematorium, an announcement was made that Asha Tai's last wish was a farewell with "Jai Hind". As per the family's wishes, Chapter 9 of the Bhagavad Gita was recited.

The Mumbai Police presented "shok-shatra" — reverse arms in mourning position — and sounded the Last Post bugle, followed by three rifle shots in the air.

The Tricolour was handed to her son Anand Bhosle, who lit the funeral pyre.

Singer Sudesh Bhosale sang a couple of lines of the iconic song "Zindagi ek safar hai suhana" from the 1971 romantic-drama film "Andaz". Bhajan maestro Anup Jalota followed with a rendition of "Ud jaayega hans akelaa". Thereafter, people sang "Abhi na jao chhod kar" — the superhit from "Hum Dono".

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar were present at the funeral. Fadnavis presented a wreath on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Maharashtra government.

Assam govt moves top court against bail relief to Khera

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Assam government has filed a plea in the Supreme Court challenging a Telangana High Court order granting one-week transit anticipatory bail to Congress leader Pawan Khera in a case registered against him for making allegations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

The court is likely to take up the matter for hearing this week.

Khera moved the high court on April 7, listing his residential address in Hyderabad, and sought bail in the event of his arrest.

On April 10, the high court granted him one-week transit anticipatory bail and directed him to file an application before the competent court within that period.

Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the high court said it was of the view that the petitioner had made out a case for limited transit anticipatory bail, as his apprehension of arrest appeared reasonable and was supported by material on record.

The high court granted him relief with certain conditions, including that he would be released on bail in the event of arrest on his executing a personal bond for Rs one lakh with two sureties for the like sum each, cooperate with the investigation and make himself available for interrogation as and when required.

SC rejects Lalu's plea against CBI FIR in land-for-jobs scam

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Lalu Prasad

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to consider a plea by RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav seeking to quash the CBI case in the alleged land-for-jobs scam, saying his objections regarding sanction can be raised before the trial court.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh expressed its disinclination to intervene at this stage but granted liberty to Yadav to raise the issue of prior sanction during trial.

The court noted that the issues raised related to the scope and applicability of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, as well as its prospective application. It made it clear that such legal questions cannot stall the progress of the trial.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Yadav, argued that the absence of prior sanction vitiated the investigation. He said the final chargesheet was filed and cognisance under Section 19 was taken in February 2025, after which the issue regarding Section 17A was raised.

Sibal said that the allegations of influencing railway appointments were linked to Yadav's official functions as Railway Minister and thus attracted protection under Section 17A. He questioned how the objection could have been raised before the chargesheet was filed.

Opposing the plea, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju argued that quashing was not permissible at this stage, adding that the petition was filed belatedly, and that the investigation had already been completed.

He maintained that Section 17A did not apply as Lalu was neither the decision-making nor the recommending authority in the alleged transactions.

Umar Khalid files review plea in top court against bail denial in Delhi riots case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former JNU student and activist Umar Khalid has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against a verdict that declined him bail after finding that there were reasonable grounds to believe the allegations levelled against him in connection with the conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal or Khalid urged a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria to list the review petition in open court.

Sibal contended that the matter is coming up for consideration before the judges in chambers on April 16. He said an application has been moved for an open-court hearing.

Umar Khalid. PTI FILE

The bench said, "We will look into the papers. If required, we will take a call on it."

As per the Supreme Court's rules, review petitions are considered by judges, who delivered a judgment or passed an order, in chambers to remedy an apparent error or a resultant grave injustice that resulted from its decision.

On January 5, the court refused to grant bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the alleged larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 Delhi riots.

The court had said Khalid and Imam stood on a qualitatively different footing as compared to the other accused and ordered the release of five other co-accused after drawing a clear distinction in their alleged roles. The other accused in the case are Gulfisha Fatima, Meera Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohd. Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmed.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BUFFWELDER'S GYM IS THROWING A 2026 RESOLUTION BANQUET!
IT'S CALLED BODY FIX IN '26!!
A FRESH START! I LOVE IT!
THE PROBLEM IS...A LOT OF PEOPLE GIVE UP ON THEIR RESOLUTIONS AFTER A FEW WEEKS!
WELL, TRUE!
SO WHEN SHOULD WE SCHEDULE IT?
HMM...GOT ANY OPENINGS BEFORE NEXT SATURDAY?
HOPEFULLY THEY'LL LAST UNTIL THEN!
DENISE MARSHALL 1-2

Hagar The Horrible

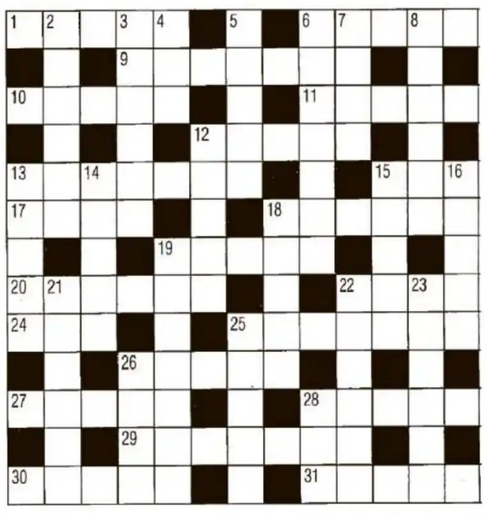
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

BREAKING NEWS!
NIT WORK NEWS
BECAUSE THERE IS NO SNOW ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD...
SANTA MAY HAVE TO CANCEL CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES!
WHAT?!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12394



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 Actively rub some sticks so as to come into flame (5)
6 Name a bar used by American burglars (5)
9 Get rid of the things we doubt? (4,3)
10 Tasteful feature of Goya's pictures (5)
11 Mark East gives us a fright (5)
12 Stall the couple who have nothing (5)
13 They're held to mean dismissal (7)
15 It's fully licenced, folks! (3)
17 In N. America, a hut that's ramshackle (4)
18 Not much butter or jam (6)
19 An all-girl sort of band (5)
20 Eventually, not too late (2,4)
22 Same form of table (4)
24 Daisy is missing for a time (3)
25 Perfect ending and motive for a crime (7)
26 Can be sung in a sari (5)
27 She always gives a boy a bit of a kiss (5)
28 Standard railway guard! (5)
29 Its tip, you see, is not a hot one! (7)
30 A growing reason to remember Ayrton (5)
31 Cries ¡Yes!î receiving fifty quid (5)

DOWN

2 Get squatters out of the house? (6)
3 Rod will make a change (6)
4 Not the complete sleuth (3)
5 Upon parting, it may be said out of love (5)
6 In all fairness, nothing but hard water (7)
7 It's at church, this irritation (4)
8 It's a profitable difference (4-2)
12 Has she beautiful French? (5)
13 A trophy I had, being a divine archer! (5)
14 Nice soldiers with a bit of style (5)
15 Walks erratically in space (5)
16 Started with a bang, perhaps, out East (5)
18 Bad marks for being crass? (5)
19 Bush country (7)
21 ìIndigenousî, a word you can alter as an option (6)
22 Run, if only just? (6)
23 Brown will maybe lose out with a growl! (6)
25 Catty name for a tow-headed baby, perhaps? (5)
26 Taking heart as a family (4)
28 Use leverage to obtain information (3)

ACROSS

1 Inexpensive (5)
6 Goes by boat (5)
9 Ill-fated ship (7)
10 Subside (5)
11 Merriment (5)
12 Lukewarm (5)
13 Frets (7)
15 Weaken (3)
17 Woodwind instrument (4)
18 Wheedle (6)
19 Previous (5)
20 Blood vessel (6)
22 Thin fog (4)
24 Born (3)
25 Infers (7)
26 Anaesthetic (5)
27 Style of car (5)
28 Log boats (5)
29 Display (7)
30 Brimless cap (5)
31 Thaws (5)

DOWN

2 Socialise, informally (6)
3 Clothes, garments (6)
4 Baked food (3)
5 Detests (5)
6 Alike (7)
7 Sour-tasting substance (4)
8 Deadly (6)
12 Man's name (5)
13 Adult human female (5)
14 Chosen way (5)
15 Relating to sound (5)
16 Nuisances (5)
18 Lid (5)
19 Specious excuse (7)
21 Distant (6)
22 Change in form (6)
23 Group of seven (6)
25 Satan (5)
26 Fencing sword (4)
28 Raised edge (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12393

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 3, Ele-Ct 8, Ha-R-sh 10, He-MA-n 11, Mac 12, Stein 13, Pinocle 15, Meaty 18, Rue 19, Sets up 21, Streaks 22, Is-is 23, Rene 24, Feather 26, Ask for 29, Tug 31, Layer 32, Alberta 34, Tense 35, No.-t 36, A-she's 37, Ocean 38, Strip.
DOWN: 1, Gamin(g) 2, Escorts 4, Late 5, Chimes 6, Tenet 7, Bantu 9, Ran 12, Sleeper 14, C-ur 16, Aster 17, Ypres 19, Skittle 20, Final 21, S-I-L-ky 23, Regen-C-y 24, For-ES-t 25, Hub 27, Sa-SSy 28, Fe-T-es 30, Attar 32, Asti 33, Roe.

EASY

ACROSS: 3, Kills 8, Warps 10, Eerie 11, Sir 12, Round 13, Logical 15, Tales 18, Cat 19, Minute 21, Control 22, Dart 23, Card 24, Seminar 26, Answer 29, Tip 31, Sitar 32, Copious 34, Tenor 35, Tut 36, Sheen 37, Datum 38, Ready.
DOWN: 1, Mason 2, Apricot 4, Idol 5, Lentil 6, Sedan 7, Rivet 9, Rig 12, Rattler 14, Can 16, Lunar 17, Seedy 19, Monitor 20, Ideas 21, Crust 23, Capital 24, Serene 25, Nip 27, Night 28, Water 30, Put up 32, Cord 33, Out.

◆SU-DO-KU-6879◆

1	6			5				7
	9				8			2
8						3		
				3		2		9
	3		2		4		8	
5		2		7				
		6						4
7			4				3	
2				9			7	6

hard

6	5	4	9	2	3	8	7	1
8	1	3	5	4	7	2	6	9
9	7	2	6	8	1	4	5	3
2	9	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
4	8	1	3	5	9	6	2	7
7	3	5	4	6	2	9	1	8
1	2	7	8	9	5	3	4	6
5	4	8	7	3	6	1	9	2
3	6	9	2	1	4	7	8	5

SOLUTION TO 6878

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

							RACK 1
A1	S1	N1	I1	R1	G2	A1	
							RACK 2
E1	E1	B3	Y4	D2	A1	A1	
							RACK 3
S1	T1	L1	E1	E1	T1	R1	Double Word Score
							RACK 4
A1	I1	I1	I1	A1	I1	X8	Triple Word Score

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	R1	O1	N1	T1	A1	L1	RACK 1 =	60
Z10	I1	L1	L1	I1	O1	N1	RACK 2 =	98
U1	N1	B3	O1	R1	N1		RACK 3 =	16
L1	A1	Y4	O1	U1	T1		RACK 4 =	9
							JUDD'S TOTAL	183

PAR SCORE 125-135

JUMBLE

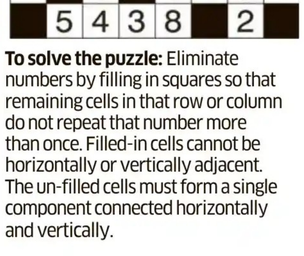
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PUYOS

KCNOK

BBRSOA

LUITFE


THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook
I think you have talent kid, but lots of people have talent. You need to have drive! I don't think you have what it takes... yet.
I think so, Mr. Sinatra. I mean, yes, Mr. Sinatra! Thank you!
10/2
WHEN IT CAME TO GIVING THE YOUNG SINGER ADVICE, SINATRA ---

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SLUSH PROUD WINNER DRAGON
Answer: The African felines were exhausted after a long day and were just — "LION" AROUND

HITORI-3333

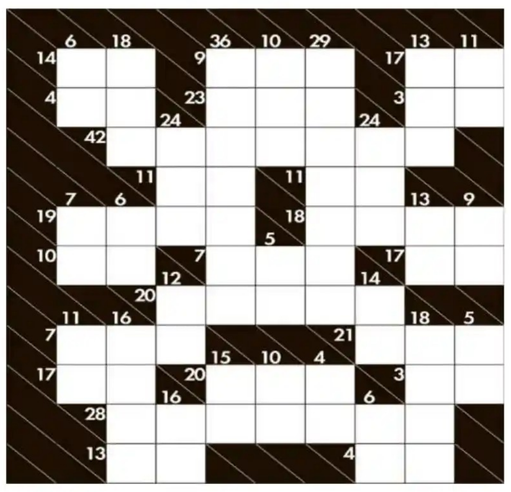
3	4	3	6	2	5	4	8
6	5	2	7	8	3	1	4
3	8	4	1	6	7	8	3
5	3	3	2	1	4	7	6
3	6	7	3	4	7	5	3
4	5	1	5	6	8	2	7
2	1	3	4	7	3	8	3
8	3	3	1	5	3	6	2

SOLUTION TO 3332

■	1	2	7	3	■	4	6
4	3	1	■	5	7	6	■
5	7	■	6	■	4	■	8
2	■	3	5	1	6	8	7
■	4	6	8	■	2	■	5
1	8	■	4	2	■	3	■
7	■	8	■	6	1	5	4
■	5	4	3	8	■	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3333



SOLUTION TO 3332

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3885

■	1		5	3		9		■
	■					8	2	
	9	■				■		
	6	9	■		■		8	
				4			5	
	3	4	■		■			6
6		■			8	■		
1		■				■		
■	5							■

SOLUTION TO 3884

6	8	4	3	1	9	2	5	7
7	2	5	6	4	8	9	1	3
3	1	9	2	5	7	4	6	8
8	4	2	7	6	5	3	9	1
9	5	6	1	3	2	8	7	4
1	7	3	9	8	4	5	2	6
5	9	8	4	7	6	1	3	2
4	6	1	5	2	3	7	8	9
2	3	7	8	9	1	6	4	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

'No fear': Pope Leo pushes back against Trump over Iran war

Pontiff cites Gospel as he rebuffs US president's criticism and calls for peace

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

US-born Pope Leo XIV pushed back on Monday on President Donald Trump's broadside against him over the US-Israel war in Iran, telling reporters that the Vatican's appeals for peace and reconciliation are rooted in the Gospel, and that he does not fear the Trump administration.

"To put my message on the same plane as what the president has attempted to do here, I think is not understanding what the message of the Gospel is," Leo told AP aboard the papal plane en route to Algeria. "And I'm sorry to hear that, but I will continue with what I believe is the mission of the Church in the world today."

History's first US-born pope stressed that he was not making a direct attack against Trump or anyone else with his general appeal for peace and criticisms of the "delusion of omnipotence" that is fuelling the Iran war and other conflicts around the world.

This photo illustration shows an image of US President Donald Trump on a screen alongside an AI-generated picture he posted on his Truth Social platform, seemingly depicting himself as Jesus Christ after criticising Pope Leo XIV. AFP

"I will not enter into debate. The things that I say are certainly not meant as attacks on anyone. The message of the Gospel is very clear: Blessed are the peacemakers," Leo said.

"I will not shy away from announcing the message of the Gospel and inviting all people to look for ways of building bridges of peace and reconciliation, and to avoid war whenever possible." Speaking to other reporters, he added: "I have no fear of the Trump administration."

Trump delivered an extraordinary broadside against Leo on Sunday night, saying he did not think the US-born global leader of the Catholic Church is "doing a very good job" and that "he's a very liberal person", while also suggesting the pontiff should "stop catering to the Radical Left".

Flying back to Washington from Florida, Trump used a lengthy social media post to sharply criticise Leo, then continued after deplaning, in comments on the tarmac to reporters. "I'm not a fan of Pope Leo," he said.

Trump's comments came after Leo suggested over the weekend that a "delusion of omnipotence" is fuelling the US-Israel war in Iran. While it is not unusual for popes and presidents to be at cross purposes, it is exceedingly rare for the pope to directly criticise a US leader — and Trump's stinging response is equally uncommon, if not more so.

Next round of Iran-US talks expected soon: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday said that the next round of Iran-US negotiations was expected soon.

Asif made these remarks on Monday, a day after the Islamabad talks failed to clinch a deal. The 21-hour talks between the US and Iran on Saturday were the first of their kind since 1979 due to the involvement of top-level officials from both sides.

The two sides, however, failed to secure a lasting peace deal to end hostilities following their talks in Pakistan over the weekend. Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, Asif said there had been a sense of satisfaction after the talks that there were no negative developments so far.

"Only positive progress has been observed," he said, indicating that the ongoing diplomatic efforts were moving in a constructive direction. The next round of Iran-US negotiations was expected soon, he added.

Nato allies refuse to join Iranian port blockade

Nato allies said on Monday they would not get involved in United States' plan to blockade Iranian ports, proposing to intervene only once fighting ends, Reuters reports from Paris/London.

Nato allies refusal to participate in the blockade is another point of friction with Trump, who has threatened to withdraw from the military alliance and is weighing pulling some US troops from Europe after several countries denied US military planes use of their airspace. "We're not supporting the blockade," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told the BBC. Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte told Europeans that Trump wants concrete commitments to secure Hormuz.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Hindus celebrate the Lal Kach festival to mark the end of Bengali new year, in Munshiganj, Bangladesh, on Monday. REUTERS

Judge dismisses Trump's $10B lawsuit against WSJ, Murdoch

▸ A judge on Monday dismissed President Donald Trump's $10 billion defamation lawsuit against the publisher of The Wall Street Journal over its report of his lewd birthday greeting to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, NYT News Service reports.

Judge Darrin Gayles in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida said Trump had not "plausibly alleged" that the Journal published the article with actual malice — meaning it knew the information was false or acted with reckless disregard for its accuracy. He dismissed the complaint without prejudice, allowing Trump to bring the same claim again. Trump's legal team said the president would refile "this powerhouse lawsuit". Trump's lawsuit centred on an article published on July 17 with the headline: "Jeffrey Epstein's Friends Sent Him Bawdy Letters for a 50th Birthday Album." It described a letter that appeared to be from Trump in a 2003 birthday album compiled for Epstein. The article said the letter included a drawing of a naked woman, with Trump's signature placed below her waist, along with a message that read: "Happy Birthday — and may every day be another wonderful secret." Trump denied writing the letter.

Oz names first woman army chief

▸ Australia on Monday announced that a woman will lead its army for the first time in history, as part of a reshuffle of the country's defence force leadership, Reuters reports from Sydney.

Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, the current Chief of Joint Capabilities, will become Chief of Army in July, the government said in a statement. She will replace Lieutenant General Simon Stuart. Coyle's appointment comes as Australia's military seeks to increase the number of female officers in its ranks, amid a wave of allegations of systemic sexual harassment and discrimination.

The Beatles Ludwig bass drum, used in the Beatles' video for "Real Love," is on display during a media preview at Sotheby's Rock & Pop auction in New York City on Monday. AFP

Israel ups assault on Lebanon

▸ Israeli troops launched an attack on Monday to seize the key town of Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon from Hezbollah fighters, intensifying the war on the Iran-backed group ahead of rare talks between Israeli and Lebanese envoys, Reuters reports from Beirut/Jerusalem.

With the Lebanese and Israeli ambassadors to the US set to meet in Washington on Tuesday, Lebanon's foreign minister said Beirut would use the face-to-face negotiations to push for a ceasefire in the war, which has complicated wider diplomacy to halt the conflict in West Asia. However, the outlook for the meeting remains uncertain. Israel has said it will not discuss a ceasefire, while Hezbollah opposes negotiations with Israel, reflecting deep political divisions.

Britney enters rehab after arrest

▸ Britney Spears has entered a substance abuse treatment facility just over a month after she was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, AP/PTI reports from Los Angeles.

A representative for Spears said in an email to The Associated Press on Sunday that the 44-year-old pop superstar had voluntarily checked herself into the facility. On March 5, California Highway Patrol officers received a report that a BMW was being driven at high speed and erratically on US 101 in Ventura County, near the Los Angeles County line, the CHP said. Spears, who lives in the area, underwent a series of field sobriety tests and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of a combination of alcohol and drugs, authorities said.

Singer Karol G performs on the Coachella stage during the 2026 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California on Sunday. AFP

Hungary's Orban ousted by centre-right rival

New leader promises anti-graft drive and constitutional changes

BUDAPEST, REUTERS

Hungarian election winner Peter Magyar vowed on Monday to change the constitution in a drive to restore democratic standards, following a landslide victory he said showed that Hungary wanted to be fully anchored in Europe after years of conflict with Brussels.

The two-thirds supermajority that Magyar's centre-right Tisza party secured in Sunday's election means it will have a free hand to strengthen the rule of law and potentially unlock billions in European Union funding. However, analysts say it will need to deliver on reforms to reap the benefits.

Outgoing nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, in power for 16 years, had moved Hungary away from the EU mainstream while maintaining warm ties with Russia despite the war in Ukraine. He repeatedly clashed with Brussels over the rule of law and human rights, resulting in the freezing of billions of euros in funds. Magyar told a news conference that his government would have many pressing tasks, including amending the constitution to limit the number of terms a prime minister can serve to two. "We will do everything to restore the rule of law, plural democracy, and the system of checks and balances," he said.

Peter Magyar, leader of the opposition Tisza Party, speaks during a press conference a day after the parliamentary election, in Budapest on Monday. REUTERS

VIKTOR ORBAN
Hungarian prime minister

"I congratulated the victorious party. We are going to serve the Hungarian nation and our homeland from the opposition.

Magyar said the constitutional amendment would apply to Orban, meaning he cannot become prime minister again.

"He had a great opportunity to do significant things in the national interest to ensure that Hungary became a developing European country... He did not use this chance, but abused it," he said. Critics of Orban say his time in office saw economic stagnation, international isolation, and oligarchs amassing wealth. His supporters say Orban defended Hungary's sovereignty and traditional values. Magyar said the election result showed that Hungary had decided to "change the regime".

B'desh rights body members quit over govt inaction

DHAKA, AFP: All five members of Bangladesh's autonomous human rights commission resigned on Monday in protest over the newly elected government's failure to renew enhanced powers for the body.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) members said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which won a landslide in the February elections, has failed to introduce bills on key rights issues during the first session of the new parliament.

The elections were the first since a student-led uprising in 2024 toppled long-ruling autocrat Sheikh Hasina, with an interim government subsequently led by 85-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus.

During his tenure, Yunus introduced several key ordinances, including one granting strengthened powers to the NHRC.

"We were appointed under the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2025, but the government has neither asked us to step down nor enacted the ordinance," outgoing member Noor Khan told AFP.

Spain urges China to play bigger role in multipolar order

HONG KONG, REUTERS

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday said China should take on a more substantial role in areas including climate change, security, defence and the fight against inequality, adding that Europe must also redouble its efforts as the US withdraws from leadership roles on many fronts.

Sanchez, who is making his fourth visit to China in four years, was speaking at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

His visit comes as many Western governments seek to maintain engagement with Beijing despite ongoing security and trade tensions. It follows visits to China earlier this year by the prime ministers of Britain, Ireland, Canada and Finland. Spain has been one of Europe's strongest proponents of expanding trade and treating China as a strategic partner rather than an economic and geopolitical rival.

Sanchez said China could do more to combat climate change, promote global health, oversee the responsible development of artificial intelligence, and address nuclear weapons concerns.

"For example, by demanding, as it is doing, that international law be respected and that conflicts in Lebanon, Iran, Gaza, the West Bank and Ukraine cease," he said. "Europe will also have to redouble its efforts, especially now that the US has decided to withdraw from many of these fronts."

Sanchez is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday, with discussions likely to focus on geopolitical issues. China accounted for 74% of Spain's total trade deficit, Sanchez said, adding that cooperation was essential to build a "balanced, globalised economy that generates shared prosperity".

Madrid hopes the visit will help narrow Spain's trade deficit, which has more than doubled in four years to nearly $50 billion in 2025. It is seeking to boost agricultural and manufacturing exports to offset high levels of imports from China.

ALL FOR BUSINESS

- Sanchez urges China to take greater responsibility in climate action, security, AI governance and reducing inequality.
- Spain seeks stronger engagement with China to reduce its trade deficit and boost exports while deepening bilateral relations.

Canadian PM Carney on the verge of a majority govt in special election

TORONTO, AP/PTI: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is on the verge of securing a majority government as special elections are held in three districts on Monday.

Votes are being cast in the Toronto-area districts of Scarborough Southwest and University-Rosedale, both considered safe seats for Carney's Liberals, and in the Montreal-area district of Terrebonne.

Winning just one of these seats would give Carney a majority. The Liberals currently hold 171 seats in the House of Commons and need 172 to secure a majority government, allowing them to pass legislation without relying on other parties. If achieved, the Liberals could remain in power until 2029 without the need for another general election.

Results are expected later on Monday. Five defections from opposition parties to Carney — including four from the main opposition Conservative Party — have brought the Liberals to the brink of a majority. One of the defectors cited Carney's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as influencing the decision. In the speech, Carney criticised economic coercion by major powers against smaller countries and received widespread praise.

Carney won Canada's election last year amid public anger over US President Donald Trump's annexation threats.

A former governor of both the Bank of England and Canada's central bank, Carney has shifted the Liberals towards the centre-right since replacing Justin Trudeau as prime minister in 2025.

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said the Liberals are almost certain to win the two Toronto seats and have a chance in Terrebonne.

TECH SHOW

Humanoid robots show off their language and boxing skills

HONG KONG, AP/PTI

A humanoid robot about the size of a primary school student had something to share in Hong Kong — it sang songs and spoke to people in Mandarin and English, answering questions posed by visitors and delighting the audience around it.

More than 100 robots were showcased at two exhibitions starting Monday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The X2 Ultra robot from China's prominent humanoid robot manufacturer AGIBOT Innovation (Shanghai) Technology Co. was among them.

When asked about its hobbies, the robot listed activities ranging from sports and dancing to studying technology and listening to music. Describing the people in front of it was no challenge either: "a woman holding a phone, a woman holding a bag and a phone, a man holding a camera," it said at one point.

Calvin Chiu, chief operating officer of Novautek Autonomous Driving, AGIBOT's agent in Hong Kong, said the robot can provide emotional satisfaction through conversations and serve as a teacher for older adults and children. Different robots can also be programmed with distinct personalities. "It would be like a friend," Chiu said. In China, technology has become a key area of competition with the US, with national security implications. Beijing's latest five-year plan vows to "target the frontiers of science and technology". Accelerating the development of products such as humanoid robots and their applications forms part of the 2026–2030 plan for the world's second-largest economy.

Official data show that China had more than 140 humanoid robot manufacturers and over 330 models in 2025.

A humanoid robot squares off against a visitor during a demonstration in Hong Kong on Monday. AP/PTI

Philippines accuses Chinese fishermen of cyanide dumping

MANILA, REUTERS: The Philippines on Monday accused Chinese fishermen of dumping cyanide in waters around the Spratly Islands, a flashpoint in the disputed South China Sea that has seen violent confrontations with Chinese vessels.

Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, despite an international ruling that its claim has no legal basis. The Philippines' National Security Council alleged the poisoning began last year around Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly chain, which lies near vital shipping lanes and is believed to be rich in minerals.

"The use of cyanide on Ayungin Shoal is an act of sabotage that seeks to kill local fish populations, depriving Navy personnel of a vital food source," NSC assistant director-general Cornelio Valencia said.

Staying employable in an unpredictable job market

ALI KHWAJA

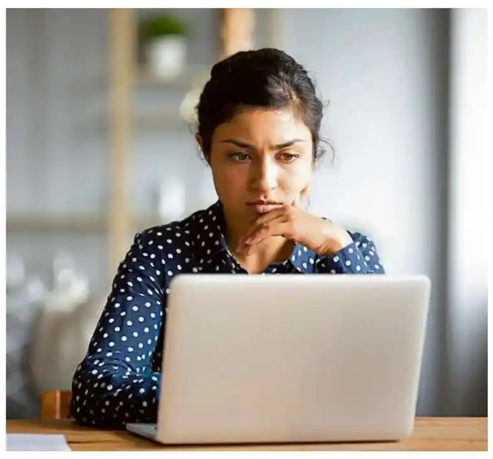
Suresh* opted for engineering four years ago because he was convinced that the best jobs go to technology professionals. He secured admission to a reputed college, and his grades were consistently high. Entering his final year, he was excited that he would get a job offer through campus recruitment and looked forward to earning.

He was shocked when some of the companies that used to regularly offer jobs to students from his college did not even visit. The second blow came when he learned that some of his seniors, who had been recruited long ago, still had not received their joining orders. His world was shattered.

Not knowing what to do, he hurriedly prepared for management entrance exams and joined a very average B-school to pursue his MBA. His hopes were shattered again when he saw that the jobs being offered were routine and mundane, with salaries hardly better than those gig workers earned.

Suresh is not the only one in this situation. A recent survey conducted by the hiring platform Unstop found that 85% of engineering students and 74% of B-school students graduating this year remain unplaced. The report also said that only 16% of internships convert into full-time jobs. Even among the job offers received, 27% were declined due to a lack of salary transparency.

This is one of the major disappointments that students in engineering and other professional



courses face. While many students continue to struggle and undergo rigorous coaching to gain admission to reputed colleges (read "IITs"), their seniors are already realising that an engineering degree is no longer a passport to success. In fact, in today's fast-changing world, there are no "safe careers". It is not that engineers will not get jobs or will keep losing existing ones. AI has created fears and confusion, and it has also slowed hiring in some sectors.

A glance at the past few decades shows that certain professions, once considered highly desirable, have periodically declined. However, it was mainly those who entered these fields without aptitude or genuine interest who suffered the most. Those with expertise—and, more importantly, the ability and willingness to adapt—weathered downturns and continued to progress.

Dr. Nikhath chose dentistry out of genuine interest, despite it being a less common path than medicine. With strong fine and gross motor skills, she was well-suited to the precision the field demands. Graduating during a time of intense competition and low patient inflow, she faced early challenges but remained driven by her passion. She developed a special interest in working with children, learning to put them at ease during procedures. Today, she runs a successful practice and is also trained as a counsellor, supporting the emotional needs of children with special needs and their parents.

The lesson: when choosing a course of study, one should prioritise aptitude and skills over perceived demand or scope. Do not rely solely on campus placements for your first job; instead, trust that your expertise will open doors. Acquire additional skills that help you stand out. Consider qualifications beyond your basic degree to improve employability, and pursue meaningful internships that provide practical exposure and the ability to handle corporate work pressure. Strong recommendations or certificates from internships can impress prospective employers.

Before selecting a course, assess your strengths, personality, and social traits, and then decide which domain you would like to spend the next 40–50 years working in. Avoid the herd mentality. For instance, if you choose technology, explore the wide range of engineering branches available rather than opting for only the most popular ones. The COMEDK website lists 88 choices, and similar diversity exists across CET and private universities.

For employment, overall development and abilities are as important as academic performance. Build life skills, communicate effectively, express yourself clearly, and learn to listen attentively. Develop the ability to handle difficult people and stressful situations.

Dinesh* realised in his first year of college that he would never be a topper. While others focused on rote learning, he engaged in extracurricular activities, built networks, and developed persuasive skills. As a student, he took short-term courses in public speaking, negotiation, and leadership. After graduation, he applied specifically for sales and marketing roles. With his technical background, he understood the products well, enabling him to sell and negotiate effectively. Within a year, he was promoted and is now on a path toward a rewarding and enjoyable career.

Another factor that contributes to a strong career start is not limiting oneself to large, reputable companies. Smaller firms often provide better all-round learning and growth opportunities, building confidence and motivation to progress. If 80% of your peers do not secure campus placements, aim to be among the 20% who do—chosen not just for your degree or CGPA, but for your ability to enhance productivity and quality within an organisation.

(The author is a career counsellor. Names have been changed to protect privacy)

BULLETIN BOARD

Courses in ELT
The Regional Institute of English South India (RIESI), Bengaluru, is inviting applications for its distance-mode programmes — Post Graduate Diploma in English Language Teaching (PGDELT) and Diploma in English Communication (DIEC) — for the 2026–27 academic year. The courses include modules on language skills, teaching methods and discourse, with optional specialisations. There will be contact programmes in October (online) and April/May (face-to-face), along with a practicum and a final examination. Last date: May 30, 2026. Details and application: https://t.ly/7gqRL

AI research fellowship
Adobe is offering the Adobe India AI Research Fellowship, a one-year AI research programme that supports PhD-level research in AI-related fields, such as Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, Human-Computer Interaction, Audio, Data Intelligence, Graphics (2D & 3D), or Document Intelligence Full-time PhD students in India with at least 12 months remaining, with a strong research background, are eligible to apply. Last date: April 30. Apply: https://t.ly/1k47Z

Recruitment
ConsultBae is hiring a recruitment team intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of recruitment and proficiency in spoken English can apply by May 10. The stipend is Rs 5,000-8,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/153889.

The right approach to punctuality

The manner in which a school imposes punctuality among students defines how students receive it, writes Aruna Sankaranarayanan

According to a post on X, a Class I student at a school in Bengaluru was allegedly made to stand in the sun for two hours for being two minutes late. Apparently, his parents' post demanding an explanation from the principal has gone viral, with many parents upset about how the child was treated at school. Further, a case has been filed against the school.

On the one hand, parents' outrage is understandable. First and foremost, a Grade 1 child cannot be held accountable for being late. At that age, a child's timeliness depends heavily on his parents' punctuality. So, in this case, it doesn't make sense to punish a child for his parents' tardiness. Further, making a child stand in the scorching sun is both unjust and inhumane and is unlikely to teach a child a positive lesson on the importance of punctuality. On the contrary, such punishments are likely to make children dislike and distrust the institution of schooling.

Why punctuality matters

That said, how does a school inculcate punctuality in students? Even as children spout the proverb that "Timeliness is next to godliness," to what extent do we practice this? As a culture, we tend to be fairly lax regarding time. A common joke is that "Indian Standard Time" implies being late by at least 30 minutes to an hour. It's not uncommon for guests to arrive at a wedding only to find that the bride and groom are still on their way. While 'traffic' is the standard excuse for being late, it simply cannot be used time and again. Punctuality is one of the basic markers of professionalism.

Given our laissez-faire attitude towards time, it's a wonder that most of our schools are punctual, often to the dot. And punctuality is a virtue that should not be trifled with because, at its core, it is about respecting other people. I teach an online class for adult learners, and I always start on time, even if not everyone has logged in yet. If I wait for the latecomers, I will inconvenience those who show up on time.

Further, if children enter a classroom at different times, the flow of a lesson is interrupted for the entire group, compromising every child's learning. So, it is in the best interests of all children that schools practice punctuality. But how can they do this without being punitive and taking relevant contextual factors into account?

As I mentioned earlier, before the age of 10, it does not make sense to hold a child responsible for being late. Even after Grade 5, students should not be subjected to any physical or psychological humiliation. For older children, making up missed work or completing a reasonable additional assignment may be a solution. For younger children who repeatedly arrive late, parents may be called in for a meeting to discuss the issue in a climate of mutual respect. This can only be achieved when the school believes that every parent is doing their best to get their child to school on time, and the parent assumes that the school prioritises children's well-being. An erosion of trust between educators and parents, unfortunately, harms children most of all, from both pedagogical and psychological perspectives.

Trust between parents and educators

The commercialisation and commodification of education have eroded a sense of community among both children and parents. If the environment had fostered trust between parents and the school, a calm and civil discussion could have prevented the issue from ballooning out of proportion. Regardless of what we say, children both watch and imitate how we act and interact with one another. For children to imbibe values such as respect, honesty, integrity, and compassion, it is important that the adults around them model these virtues.

Schools alone are not to blame. Parents, too, are both victims and perpetrators of a toxic culture that prizes performance over the whole person. Mired in modernity's rat race, parents often focus on external metrics of success, such as marks and ranks, and treat educators as mere "service-providers" who are paid to perform a job. As a result, the synergistic bond between parent and teacher, which is essential for a child's healthy and holistic development, is often weak or absent.

While the National Education Policy (NEP) has charted lofty goals and hopes to reimagine and revitalise education in India, this vision cannot be realised unless the adult stakeholders, parents and educators, also re-evaluate the purpose of education. If we want to nurture the next generation of responsive and responsible citizens, it is about time we recalibrated our priorities for our children and modelled the values we hope will take root in them. Nothing less than their futures is at stake.

(The author is a psychologist, writer and visiting faculty, Azim Premji University)

BENGALURU'S LEADING EDUCATION POWERHOUSE
• Aviation • Engineering
• Management

AME Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
Approved by DGCA, Govt. of India
• B1.1 Aeroplane Turbine • B2 Avionics
Cadet AME Programme
with leading airlines. Recruitment at the time of joining and placement on completion of the course.
DGCA CAR 147 Basic
B1.3 Helicopter Turbine
Eligibility: 12th Std. with PCM or Diploma (DTE approved)

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026-27
8971404357
9740037853

Business and Management Courses
Affiliated with Bengaluru North University and Approved by AICTE
BBA Aviation Management | B.Sc. Aircraft Maintenance | B.Com
BCA | BBA | MBA
Eligibility: 12th Std. or Diploma (DTE approved)

Polytechnic
Eligibility: 10th Std.
• Aeronautical • Mechanical
• Computer Science Engineering

HBS HINDUSTAN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Affiliated with Bengaluru North University and Approved by AICTE / UPES
HINDUSTAN BUSINESS SCHOOL
(A unit of EveHans Academy)
Ashwathnagar, Chinnappanahalli, Marathahalli, Bengaluru - 560037 Ph: 080-25238650, 25232217
E: admissions@hindustanacademy.edu.in
www.hindustanacademy.edu.in

Digital ban, a boon or a bane?

QUARRATUL AIN IFRAH

"I think I'll be bored," says a 13-year-old boy from Kalaburagi, upon hearing of the social media ban for children aged 16, announced recently by the government of Karnataka on March 6, 2026.

"Maybe we can play for a few days, but what do we do when we can't go out?" he asks. Another 15-year-old shrugs at the news, saying his parents' account that he has been using will remain intact anyway and that there will be no effect on him. This difference in response accurately describes the varied influences a ban is likely to create in the state.

Social media and the digital world have revolutionised all aspects of society drastically in the last decade. But for a generation born right into it, the effects are even more pronounced and demand urgent attention and action. Countries such as Australia, Spain, France, and China have functional bans on social media for users under the age of 16, restricting access to platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, and many more are expected to implement similar age restrictions in the near future.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed a ban in the state budget 2026-2027 with the "objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile usage on children." It is also a part of the "Uttama Kalike Ujjwala Bhavishya" education reform programme.

Syed Tanveer Ahmed, an educationist from Bengaluru, says that social media could "hamper children's creativity, biological health, cognitive development, social growth, and could also bring a drop in their emotional quotient". He also speaks of the age-appropriateness of certain kinds of content "that should not be allowed for children, but since filtering out such programmes is difficult, banning is a better option."

Many studies, such as the Economic Survey of India 2025-2026, point to the link between high screen time and deteriorating mental health in the 15-24 age group. But children under 16 also show just as many, if not more severe, adverse effects from regular consumption of social media or mobile games.

A study conducted by Brian P Dunleavy on 160,000+ children aged 12 and younger cited an up to "20% higher risk of behaviour problems for children associated with higher screen time". Another systematic review based in India by Ashish Khobragade and Swathi Shenoy showed the average screen time of a child under five in India as 2.22 hours a day, and children under two years as 1.23 hours a day, which is almost double the guidelines of 1 hour per day (for five year olds) and no screen time below two years given by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) in 2021(IAP) or the WHO.

Evidence makes a case for urgent action, but the nature and extent of the action remain a subject of debate. Ali Khwaja, counsellor and life skills coach, and the founder and Chairman of The Banjara Academy, says, "I feel it is extremely difficult to impose such a restriction at the practical level, and teenagers who have been using social media for many years will do everything they can to side-step this ban. If unscrupulous people start offering devious ways to side-step this restriction, there may be worse implications. Restrictions and banning have never really worked in society as history has recorded – hence the question of positive impact can only be hypothetical."

Maitradevi Halemani, a parent and sociologist from Kalaburagi, adds: "Social media is necessary. It can be difficult for a child to grow up without any in such a digital world. However, as parents, we have to teach and monitor the children and what they consume."

"There is much more to the 'digital world' than social media. If it is actually possible to make children grow up without social media, they will actually look for other, more reliable and more human-related means of interactions, which will be a great boon for them," Khwaja adds.

As the discussion continues, the only remaining questions are the imposition and the nature of the regulation made by the government. It is up to parents and authorities to draw a clear red line and regulate children's use of social media and smartphones accordingly.

(The author is a Kalaburagi-based masters student)

IIBS BENGALURU
Redefining Leading Talents
NAAC GRADE A& UGC AUTONOMOUS ACCREDITED B- SCHOOL | 18 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
AUTONOMOUS
RECOMMENDED BY 20+ MDS. | APPRECIATED BY 10+ BUREAUCRATS | VALIDATE BY 30+ CEOS.
Approved by AICTE Ministry of Education, Government of India
Admissions open for 2026-29
BA + IAS & IPS
BCA + AI & ML
BBA + Business Analytics
B.Com + ACCA
MBA
Marketing, Finance, HR-Mgmt, Business Analytics, Production & Operations Mgmt, Entrepreneurship & Start-ups.
PGDM
Marketing, Finance, HR-Mgmt, Business Analytics, Production & Operations Mgmt, Entrepreneurship & Start-ups, Agri-Business Mgmt, Logistic Supply Chain Mgmt, Data Sc., IT, IB, Healthcare & Hospital Mgmt., AI & ML

+91 99864 15333 +91 96202 48214
admission@iibsonline.com
www.iibs.org.in | www.iibs.edu.in
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS STUDIES
75, Jala Hobli, Begur, Muthugadahalli, Near International Airport, Bengaluru, Karnataka 562110

Biz Bytes

Sharon Pais to lead Myntra

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Flipkart Group on Monday announced that Sharon Pais will be the head of Myntra and report to Kalyan Krishnamurthy, effective immediately, as Nandita Sinha has decided to move on from the company.

Sharon Pais, Head of Myntra

Sharon has worked closely with the Myntra and Flipkart Fashion teams over the years and brings a strong understanding of the business. Her appointment reflects continuity as Myntra builds on its current momentum. Nandita will continue to support the business over the coming months to ensure continuity, the company said in a statement.

Kapil Thirani will lead Flipkart Fashion, reporting to Sakait Chaudhary, SVP and Head of Marketplace, Flipkart, and the company will initiate the process to identify a successor for the marketplace business.

Ola Electric launches S1 X+

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ola Electric on Monday announced the launch of the new S1 X+ 5.2 kWh scooter, powered by its indigenously developed 4680 Bharat Cell at an introductory price of Rs 1,29,999. With this, the company is bringing its advanced in-house cell technology to the mass market, making long range EV scooters accessible for every Indian, Ola Electric said in a statement.

S1 X+ 5.2 kWh marks a major milestone in Ola Electric's journey to drive adoption of high-performance EV technology at scale, it added.

Powered by an 11 kW mid-drive motor with integrated MCU, the scooter delivers a 320 km IDC range and a top speed of 125 km/h. It also comes equipped with Brake-by-Wire and front disc brakes. The company's mass market offerings include Gen 3 S1 X+ (4kWh), and Gen 3 S1 X (2kWh, 3kWh, and 4kWh).

N Chandrasekaran orders probe into TCS Nashik allegations

TCS COO Aarthi Subramanian to lead investigation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Monday announced a high-level investigation into the alleged sexual harassment incident at Nashik campus of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Aarthi Subramanian, Chief Operating Officer at TCS, will lead this investigation.

The company is treating the incident with utmost seriousness and that the complaints and allegations emerging from the branch have been gravely concerning and anguishing, he said.

"Action has already been initiated against the accused employees, and the company is extending its full cooperation to the ongoing investigations," he said.

Last week, the Nashik police formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the complaints lodged by eight employees, who claimed that senior colleagues mentally and sexually harassed them, and the human resources department turned a deaf ear to their complaints. The incidents were reported between 2022 and 2026. Police have since arrested seven people.

Chandrasekaran said the Tata Group maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of coercion or misconduct by its employees. A thorough investigation is underway to establish the facts and identify all individuals responsible for this situation.

"Appropriate and stringent action will be taken against those found guilty. Any necessary process improvements or corrective measures will be promptly implemented and strictly enforced," he added. Subramanian, who took charge in May last year, is the first woman COO at TCS.

Before this current role, Aarthi Subramanian was the Group Chief Digital Officer at Tata Sons. Her association with the Tata group spans over three decades.

Earlier, the IT-union body Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) on Monday filed a complaint against TCS with the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The union has condemned the incident and called for an immediate, comprehensive and time-bound audit of POSH compliance and overall workplace conditions at TCS.

"The facts emerging from this case indicate a troubling pattern, including abuse of authority, failure of internal complaint mechanisms and an apparent lack of sensitivity and responsibility on the part of those entrusted with protecting employees," said Harpreet Singh Saluja, President, NITES.

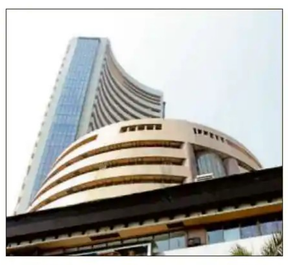
The union has also demanded a wider audit across IT and ITeS companies in Maharashtra.

"We have always ensured the highest standards of safety and wellbeing of our employees at the workplace. As soon as we were made aware of the matter in Nashik, we took swift action," Tata Consultancy Services said in a statement on Sunday.

The spokesperson said that they are cooperating with the local law enforcement authorities, and any further action will be based on the conclusion of this investigation.

Stock markets plunge nearly 1%

US-Iran talks collapse, fuelling West Asia conflict fears



MUMBAI, PTI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed nearly 1% lower on Monday as the failure of US-Iran negotiations heightened concerns of a prolonged conflict driving crude oil prices sharply higher.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 702.68 points or 0.91% to settle at 76,847.57. During the day, it dived 1,681.93 points or 2.16% to 75,868.32.

The 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 207.95 points or 0.86% to end at 23,842.65.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Maruti, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank were the biggest laggards.

ICICI Bank, NTPC and Axis Bank were the winners.

The US and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan, leaving the fate of a tenuous two-week ceasefire in doubt, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the collapse of the negotiations.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 7.73% to $102.6 per barrel.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled marginally higher.

European markets were trading lower.

"Markets continue to derive limited support from last week's ceasefire framework, which remains intact for now and is encouraging selective buying interest along with a buy-on-dips approach. This comes despite an initial negative reaction to the breakdown of US–Iran peace talks and the announcement of a US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, which pushed crude prices above $100/bbl," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Elevated oil prices are raising concerns around inflation, currency stability, and broader macro balances, thereby weighing on overall sentiment, Nair added.

US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

Coforge gets statutory nod for Encora acquisition

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mid-tier IT services company Coforge on Monday announced that all the regulatory approvals and statutory clearances in multiple jurisdictions for the acquisition of Encora have been secured. In December last year, Coforge announced its intent to acquire Encora to create a $2.5 billion AI-native tech services firm with a $2 billion data, AI-led engineering and cloud-based services core.

The company is acquiring Encora for an enterprise value of about Rs 21,100 crore.

The integration management office continues to track workstreams across all functional areas, and the company is on course to meet its stated integration milestones, it said.

The company also added that the cost optimisation programme targeting General & Administrative (G&A) functions is progressing on track. With detailed work plans and governance structures established, the company remains confident in achieving its margin guidance as its cost optimisation plan is expected to deliver 20%–25% reduction in G&A costs for the combined business within the projected timelines.

"We are pleased to report that the transaction has gone exactly as per plan and every element of anticipated synergies is on course to be realised. We look forward to the two firms merging by the end of April 2026 and subsequently operating as a $2.5 billion-plus firm on a run-rate basis, with a $2 billion enterprise core of AI-led engineering, data, and cloud services. We are setting the benchmark for making the promise of AI real for enterprises," said Sudhir Singh, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Coforge.

Encora has built composable agentic AI platforms — AIVATM, and has deep partnerships with AWS, Microsoft, Google and Snowflake.

Recently, Coforge launched AI Mod Squads, a new delivery model with a simple monthly subscription fee. Mod Squads combine pre-built AI agents with specialised AI engineers to deliver faster time-to-market at a lower cost for clients.

Rupee weakens by 52 paise to settle at 93.35 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee slumped 52 paise to settle at 93.35 against the US dollar on Monday after a failed US-Iran peace talk fuelled uncertainties in West Asia, leading to a surge in crude oil prices and a global chase for the greenback.

According to forex analysts, uncertainties over the opening of Strait of Hormuz following the US announcement to blockade Iranian ports further intensified withdrawal for foreign capital from domestic equities, weakening the Indian currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 93.30 against the US dollar and moved between a low of 93.40 and a high of 93.25 during the session. The unit closed the session at 93.35 against the greenback, registering a loss of 52 paise from its previous closing level.

On Friday, the rupee settled 32 paise lower at 92.83 against the US dollar. The forex market will be closed on Tuesday on account of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the rupee depreciated on risk-aversion in the global markets as talks between the US and Iran failed over the weekend. Surge in crude oil prices and a strong dollar also pressured the rupee.

"Rising US dollar and surge in crude oil prices may further pressurise the rupee. FII may also continue to sell from the capital markets. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 93-93.80," Choudhary said.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, "Ongoing geopolitical tensions and risks around the Strait of Hormuz are keeping energy prices elevated, which is adding to inflation concerns and limiting rupee recovery. The overall bias remains weak, with the rupee expected to trade in a range of 92.75-94.00 in coming session."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was higher by 0.32% at 98.75.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 7.69% at $102.52 per barrel in futures trade after the US said it would blockade Iranian ports beginning Monday.

According to the US Central Command, the blockade would be "enforced impartially against vessels of all nations" entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas. However, ships travelling between non-Iranian ports will be allowed to transit Strait of Hormuz.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 702.68 points or 0.91% to settle at 76,847.57, while the Nifty tumbled 207.95 points or 0.86% to 23,842.65.

Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,983.18 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, forex reserves jumped by $9.063 billion to $697.121 billion during the week ended April 3, 2026.

GE Aerospace to help IAF maintain jet engines

NEW DELHI, PTI: US defence major GE Aerospace on Monday announced firming up of a contract with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to set up a maintenance facility for its F404-IN20 jet engines which are powering India's Tejas light combat aircraft fleet.

The facility will be established by the IAF with technical inputs from GE Aerospace and is expected to help India's indigenous defence sustainment effort, the company said.

Once operational, the facility will eliminate the need to depend on the overseas repair centres, significantly improving turnaround times, it said.

GE Aerospace is supplying the F404-IN20 jet engines to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the maker of Tejas Light Combat (LCA) jets.

"The depot facility will be owned, operated, and maintained by the Indian Air Force with GE Aerospace providing technical inputs, training, support staff, and the supply of necessary spares and specialised equipment," the company said in a statement.

There have been some concerns in India's defence establishment over delays in the delivery of F404-IN20 jet engines by GE Aerospace to HAL. The IAF is in the process of inducting more Tejas jets.

In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000-crore deal with the HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets for the IAF.

In September last year, the ministry finalised another deal worth Rs 62,370 crore with HAL to procure 97 Tejas MK-1A light combat aircraft for the IAF. It has been designed to undertake air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike roles.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2026-27/48 Date:13/04/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Supply of Equipments/Instruments to KIMS Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.
1) Pathology Department -Tender Cost: Rs. 66.52 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 1,33,100/-
2) Laundry Department -Tender Cost: Rs. 52.54 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 1,05,100/-
Tender Can be Downloaded from **18/04/2026** from 5.30 PM and Last Date for Submission of Tender **04/05/2026** up to 05.30 PM Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in
DIPR/Koppal/23/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.**

MAHANAGAR PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472-278675, Fax : 08472-260776, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No.: KMP/TS-01/CF/01/2026-27 Date : 09-04-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Hiring of 40 Outsourced Gardeners for the maintenance of Public gardens under Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, 2) Head of Account : **Corporation Fund,** 3) Tender Amount : **1,00,00,000.00,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: As per KPPP Portal, 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time : 18-04-2026 11:00am, 6) Last Date for Bid Submission : 23-04-2026 Upto 4:30pm, 7) Tender opening Date : 24-04-2026 Upto 4:35 pm, 8) Tender Financial Bid opening Date : 27-04-2026 Upto 11.30am, 9) Cost of Tender Schedule : Tender Fee As Per e-portal EMD Max Rs. 2,00,000.00, 10) Contact Address & Mobile No. : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Kalaburagi 9620341599, 11) Web Site : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/29/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Kalaburagi**

ನೃಪತುಂಗ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು (NAAC A+ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
NRUPATHUNGA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU (NAAC A+ Accredited Institution)
Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: nrupathungauniversity@gmail.com, Ph : 080-29602924
No: NUB/Admn/Advr/22/2026-27 Date: 13.04.2026

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026–27
UNDERGRADUATE & POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS
B.Sc | BCA | BBA | B.Sc-B.Ed | M.Sc.,
NEW COURSES LAUNCHED FROM 2026–27
BCA - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, BCA - Data Science, MCA
LIMITED SEATS - APPLY NOW
G+7 MODERN ACADEMIC BUILDING
Excellent Infrastructure | Experienced Faculty | Smart & Digital Learning Environment
Contact: 080–29602924, Website : nrupathungauniversity@gmail.com
DIPR/CP/172/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27 **Sd/- Registrar**

TUNGABHADRA HOUSING SOCIETY LTD,
Shri Siddeshwar Co-op Bank Building, A.P.M.C. Yard, Ranebennur-581115

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL CORNER SITES IN RANEBENNUR

E-Auction notification of commercial corner sites beside Om Public School, Old P.B. Road, Ranebennur developed by Tungabhadra Housing Society Ltd, Ranebennur, 581115, Karnataka.
1. Auction commencement and published date **11th April 2026.**
2. Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e- Auction **20th April 2026 5 PM** IST.
3. e-Auction will be online only through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/
4. Please refer to the details attached in the e-Auction notification with below details.

Sl. No.	Plot #	Dimension	Reserved Value in INR	Auction Notice Number
1	233	28 Mtr x 17.05 Mtr	4774000 (Forty Seven Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Only	TCOHSL/2026-27 /AUCTION8
2	190	36 Mtr x 24 Mtr	8640000 (Eighty Six Lakhs FortyThousand Only	TCOHSL/2026-27 /AUCTION7
3	102	36 Mtr x 18 Mtr	6480000 (Sixty Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Only	TCOHSL/2026-27 /AUCTION5

Sd/- DRCS

Government of Karnataka
Ballari Urban Development Authority, Ballari
ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಚ್.ಆರ್.ಜಿ. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08392–273731, E-Mail: combudably@gmail.com. Web: www.bellary.uda.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬನಆಪ್ರಾ/ಇಎನ್‌ಜಿಜಿ/ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆ/ SE0015/CALL-3/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10/04/2026

Postponement of Tender (Through e-Procurement)

Reference:-Tender Notification No:BNAPRA/ENGG/ Mahayojan/ SE0015/AMII-3/2025-26, Date: 31/03/2026/
With Reference Above Invited Tender for the work of **"Preparation of Masterplan for Ballari Urban Development Area, Indent No. BUDA/2025-26/SE0015/ CALL-3".** The Last date Recipt of Tender is postponed due to technical Reasons, as Follows The last date for submission of tenders is Dt: 21/04/2026 up to 16:30 hrs, date of opening of technical bids Dt: 23/04/2026 at 11:30 hrs and date of opening of financial bids Dt: 27/04/2026 at 11.30 hrs. Further information on the tender can be obtained during office hours (except holidays) or on the website www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in or through this office's telephone number: 08392-273731.
Sd/-Commissioner.,
Ballari Urban Development Authority,Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/50

NCLAT adjourns hearing on Vedanta plea against selection of Adani's bid for JAL

NEW DELHI, PTI : The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday adjourned its hearing over mining giant Vedanta Group's petitions against the selection of Adani Enterprises' bid for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) to April 16.

The matter will now be taken up on Thursday, following a change in the composition of the bench due to the unavailability of one of its members.

The tribunal was slated to hear the conclusion of arguments from Vedanta's counsel, after which lenders and the resolution professional were to begin their submissions.

However, after discussions with the parties, NCLAT decided to defer the proceedings and list the case for Thursday.

Last Friday, Vedanta questioned the evaluation metrics adopted by JAL's lenders during the appellate tribunal proceedings, which had selected the lower bid of Rs 3,400 crore from Adani Enterprises for the debt-ridden company. He said the "valuation in the process has been used to wipe out commercial wisdom" by the committee of creditors (CoC).

Vedanta has filed two petitions, challenging the March 17 order by the Allahabad bench of NCLT, which approved Adani Enterprises Ltd's Rs 14,535-crore bid to acquire JAL through the insolvency process.

On March 24, NCLAT declined any interim stay on the order passed by the NCLT approving the Adani Group's bid for acquiring JAL.

However, it said the plan would be subject to the outcome of the appeals filed by the Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Group.

This interim order by NCLAT was challenged before the Supreme Court, which also declined to grant a stay. However, the apex court had directed that if the monitoring committee planned to take any major policy decision, it should first obtain the Tribunal's sanction.

In the selection process, Adani Enterprises had outbid Vedanta and Dalmia Bharat to win the bid for JAL. Adani got the maximum 89 per cent votes from creditors, followed by Dalmia Cement (Bharat), and Vedanta Group.

The CoC defended its decision, saying the process complied with all Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) rules. They maintained that no bidder has a guaranteed right to win, even if it offers the highest value.

LIC board approves 1:1 bonus issuance

NEW DELHI, PTI: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Monday said its board has approved a bonus issuance of equity shares in 1:1 ratio.

In a regulatory filing, the bonus issue will be done by capitalising Rs 6,325 crore out of reserves and surplus available with LIC as of December 31, 2025.

"... it is to inform that the Board of Directors of the Life Insurance Corporation of India at its meeting held today, i.e., Monday, April 13, 2026... considered and approved the issuance of bonus equity shares in the proportion of 1:1, i.e., 1 (One) fully paid up equity share of Rs 10 each for every 1 (one) fully paid-up equity share of Rs 10 each held by the Members of the Corporation as on the Record Date,.." LIC said.

The government currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC. It sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of Rs 902-949 a share. The share sale fetched the government around Rs 21,000 crore.

The bonus issue would pave way for further share sale or offer for sale (OFS) of LIC. The government, according to sources, is working on plans to come out with an OFS of LIC.

Shares of LIC closed at Rs 804.25, up 0.71% over previous close on the BSE.

IN BRIEF

Technico wallop GRK Girls 8-0

▸ Prachi Bisht and Thihi Shingati scored a brace each as their side Technico FF defeated GRK Girls 8-0 in the KSFA A Division Women's League Championship at the BFS on Monday, reports DHNS.
Results: Technico FF: 8 (Prachi Bisht 2nd, 22nd, Sabreen Ali 6th, Thihi Shingati 15th, 33rd, Anupriya Sahani 45th, Adhisha Walla 53rd, Anjali Maria Thomas 55th) bt GRK Girls: 0; Kemp FC Juniors: 2 (Janhavi Reddy 50th, Anika Joshi 59th) bt Reds United FC-0; YBEFC: 1 (Nilavoli Sethurayar 6th) bt Shree Renuka FC: 0.

Rajajinagar sneak into final

▸ Rajajinagar staved off a late fightback from Rajarajeshwari, holding their nerve to score a 3-2 win in the semifinals of the second Chief Minister Cup football tournament at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday, reports DHNS.
Result: Rajajinagar: 3 (Kavi Arasan 34th, 77th, Surya Prakash B 83rd) bt Rajarajeshwari Nagar: 2 (Pavan B 79th, Michael R 90+4).

Sunderraj stars in BSHC win

▸ Sunderraj netted a brace while Rajdeep also found the back of the net as Blue Star Hockey Club beat Bellary District Hockey Association 3-1 in the in the KSHA 'A' Division Hockey League Championship on Monday, reports DHNS.
Result: Blue Star Hockey Association: 3 (Rajdeep 3rd, Sunderraj 41st, 42nd) bt Bellary District Hockey Association: 1 (Sunil 44th).

Saba elected to AIPS ExCo

▸ Former Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) President S Sabanayakan has been elected to the Executive Committee of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) during its 88th Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland, reports PTI from New Delhi.

World Aquatics lifts restriction on Russians, Belarusians

LAUSANNE, AFP: Athletes from Russia and Belarus are free to participate under their own flags in senior World Aquatics events after the global governing body on Monday lifted a ban on them competing.

Competitors from Russia and Belarus had been banned from international competition following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, although since September 2023 they have been allowed to compete as neutrals.

"Following a decision of the World Aquatics bureau, and in consultation with the aquatics integrity unit (AQIU) and the World Aquatics athletes' committee, the guidelines for athlete participation in aquatics events during a period of political conflict will no longer apply to senior athletes with Belarusian or Russian sport nationality," a World Aquatics statement read.

"Senior athletes with Belarusian or Russian sport nationality will be permitted to compete in World Aquatics events in the same way as their counterparts representing other sport nationalities, with their respective uniforms, flags and anthems."

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL
Champions League: Liverpool vs Paris Saint Germain, Atletico Madrid vs Barcelona **(both 12:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

TENNIS
ATP 500 Barcelona Open: Round of 32 **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Barca target Atletico comeback

Misfiring Liverpool have mountain to climb against champions PSG

BARCELONA, AFP

Marcus Rashford had his chance against Atletico Madrid, but failed to take it -- or any of the next five that came along on a frustrating European night. Meanwhile, Liverpool have a mountain to climb to oust holders Paris Saint-Germain from the Champions League.

On Tuesday the England international Rashford has another opportunity to try and inspire Barcelona to a Champions League comeback in the Spanish capital.

Rashford fired blanks as Barca suffered a 2-0 quarterfinal first leg defeat, but the England international was also his team's brightest spark against the Rojiblancos, even though the killer finish eluded him.

The 28-year-old, on loan from Manchester United, has a point to prove in the second leg, particularly with his future at the club on the line -- as well as a potential World Cup spot in Thomas Tuchel's England squad.

Barcelona have not yet made a decision on whether to trigger the 30 million euro ($35 million) clause in Rashford's loan deal to make his switch to Camp Nou permanent.

With Raphinha out injured, Rashford has been the natural choice on Barca's left flank.

Rashford burst beyond Atletico full-back Nahuel Molina on numerous occasions at Camp Nou but could not capitalise.

"This team is always going to create chances, there's so much quality in possession... today the goal didn't go in, but we can't shy away from the responsibility to take these chances," Rashford told CBS.

"On another day, on another night, they go in."

On Saturday, Flick began with Rashford on the bench for Barcelona's 4-1 thrashing of Espanyol in La Liga, likely to save the forward's energy for the visit to Atletico's Metropolitano stadium.

Atletico Madrid's star forward Antoine Griezmann (centre) trains ahead of their Champions League's quarterfinal second-leg clash against Barcelona in Madrid on Monday. AFP

LIVE 12:30 AM (WEDNESDAY) SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Reds seek 'special'

Crowned champions of England less than a year ago, Liverpool sit fifth in the Premier League and fell short in both domestic cup competitions.

The Champions League represents one final chance of silverware but it is a long shot after the team were outclassed 2-0 in the first leg of their quarter-final at the Parc des Princes.

Six-time European champions Liverpool are still alive in the competition thanks to PSG's profligacy and they have overcome greater odds in the past under the lights at Anfield.

"It's down to us to be in the best shape possible to make a special evening on Tuesday," said captain Virgil van Dijk.

"We are at home and we have to show belief that we can do it. It needs a special performance but I'm lucky I have been part of special performances."

Villarreal add to Athletic's relegation concerns

High-flying Villarreal defeated Athletic Bilbao 2-1 in La Liga on Sunday, with the Basque side looking nervously over their shoulders towards the relegation battle after a poor run of form, reports AFP from Barcelona.

Sergi Cardona put the visitors ahead with a neat lofted effort over goalkeeper Unai Simon, who was running out to close him down on the edge of the box. Alfonso Gonzalez doubled Villarreal's lead before half-time after closing down Inigo Lekue's clearance and driving home at the near post.

Gorka Guruzeta pulled one back for the hosts from close range with little over five minutes remaining, but they could not produce a comeback.

Earlier, Real Oviedo climbed provisionally off the bottom of the La Liga table with a 3-0 win at Celta Vigo.

Results: Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Guruzeta 84th) lt to Villarreal: 2 (Cardona 26th, Alfonso 45+5th); Osasuna: 1 (Budimir 40th P) drew with Real Betis: 1 (Abde 7th); Mallorca: 3 (Muriqi 36th, 40th, Virgili 65th) bt Rayo Vallecano: 0; Celta Vigo: 0 lt to Real Oviedo: 3 (Reina 4th, Vinas 45th, 57th).

Ayush 'proud' of giant-killing run

Karnataka shuttler eyes world No. 1 spot

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ayush Shetty. PTI

More often than not, sport has a cruel way of showing some things are not meant to be. For Karnataka's Ayush Shetty, who gave his all during an impressive giant-killing campaign at the Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China, the journey ultimately fell just short of the finish he was aiming for.

Having put up an impressive show, beating three of the top 10 players in the world en route to the final, Ayush faltered in the last hurdle and had to settle for silver.

However, the Karkala boy said he was "proud" of his campaign while conceding that the lop-sided final against world No. 2 Chinese Shi Yu Qi was a "great learning curve".

"I'm proud and happy of the way I played throughout the tournament," Ayush said in a media interaction.

"Obviously, it was a tough loss. I definitely wanted to end on a high note, wanted to win it. But again, I think it is a great learning for me."

While Ayush stood on the podium with a sense of dejection, it was a week of sheer brilliance, becoming only the second men's singles player from India after Dinesh Khanna (1965) to make final of the Championships.

Analysing the summit clash, Ayush indicated that the transition from defence to attack and staying patient in longer rallies is something that he needs to work on.

"In the final, he (Shi) did not give me much of a chance to attack. He also did not give me chances to go to the net and dominate. I could not create much attacking chances. I think I have to be more patient and play longer rallies."

While the sample size (duration) is still small, Ayush has been upping intensity behind the lens, training with Indonesian coach Irwansyah Adi Pratama.

"I think it's just been two weeks since I've started training with him (Irwansyah). The sessions are a bit longer than before. I'm spending a lot more time on court. And I think the sessions are a bit longer and tougher, which will help improve endurance."

While Ayush lacked self-belief at the beginning of his career, the 20-year-old has realised that hard work is the only way to realise his dream.

"I always wanted to be one of the best players in the world. That was my dream and still is. Earlier, I did not have the belief as much as I do now. Over a period of time, I started to understand that to be the best, I have to put in the work."

While the badminton calendar has two marquee events lined up, Ayush has his sights set on the World Championships in August.

"We are targeting the World Championships. That is the primary focus. Of course the Asian Games is definitely on the mind but the Championships is earlier."

Speaking about the comparisons with the great Dane Viktor Alexsen, Ayush said that it was great to see his "idol" sing his praises.

TOPS turns focus towards aquatics, cycling

NEW DELHI, PTI

The government's flagship Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is set for a major revamp with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday saying that quarterly evaluation of selected athletes is being considered, besides a greater focus on high medal-yielding events like aquatics and cycling.

Currently, the assessment of athletes is carried out half-yearly and the TOPS core and developmental groups do not feature any cyclist and has just one swimmer in the latter list.

The Minister noted that the TOPS strength has increased significantly from 245 in the previous year.

"The next target is to expand the TOPS pool to 3000 athletes by 2032, maintaining a Core to Development ratio of 1:5. This will be further scaled up to 5000 athletes by 2036," he told reporters here.

"The criteria for athletes is also in the works and the committee could be meeting quarterly to decide on the selections."

Mansukh Mandaviya

Driving the expansion plan would be aquatics, cycling, rowing and gymnastics. It was earlier reported in January about the government's plan to shift the focus to these disciplines due to the high number of medals they offer at the Olympic Games. Ditto for rowing, which has 45 medals at stake in Los Angeles across 15 events, and cycling, where 22 events will throw up 66 medals.

F1 in 2027

Mandaviya also said he is pushing for a Formula 1 race in India in 2027 by streamlining the tax-related hurdles that led to the event leaving the country in 2013 after three editions.

Mandaviya said at least three companies have shown interest in running the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida where the race is proposed to be held. The Indian Grand Prix was dropped after 2013 due to tax and bureaucratic hurdles.

"There will be an F1 race in India in 2027. First race will be at Buddha International Circuit," Mandaviya said.

However, sources in Formula 1, owned by Liberty Media, said a race in 2027 is highly unlikely even though India is being seen a market of interest once again.

Cricket at CWG 2030

Mandaviya also said the 2030 Commonwealth Games is likely to feature two indigenous Indian sports in an elaborate event programme that will definitely have hockey and cricket among others.

Ministry favours separate teams for Asiad and Hockey WC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Sports Ministry would like Hockey India to nominate its best teams for the Asian Games amid an ongoing debate on whether separate sides should be finalised for the continental showpiece and the World Cup later this year to ensure players are not burnt out.

While the World Cup will be held from August 15 to 30 in Belgium and the Netherlands, the Asian Games are slated from September 19 to October 4 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Although the two events are not technically clashing, the lack of turnaround time for the players, both men and women, is being seen as a major concern.

However, neither the men's head coach Craig Fulton, nor his women's team counterpart Sjoerd Marijne is in favour of sending two teams, insisting that same sides should go for both the high-intensity events.

Eagerly-awaited National Sports Awards delayed

NEW DELHI, PTI: The eagerly-awaited national sports awards have been uncharacteristically delayed this year and sources in the Sports Ministry said it is because of a re-evaluation process that is currently underway to ensure that "only the deserving" athletes get the honour.

Arjuna award

The awards selection committee had given its recommendations in December last year after the process of nominations was started slightly later than usual. However, the approved names are not yet out as the ministry is re-assessing the recommendations.

"The list of Arjuna award recommendations is being re-evaluated right now. The value of these awards should not get diminished, that's the goal," a source said on Monday.

"It shouldn't be the case that we have Arjuna awardees in every nook and corner but when you ask them about their accomplishments, there is nothing much to show. And then not to forget the litigations and outrageous media statements that come out in some cases," he added, referring to past controversies of athletes taking the matter to judiciary on not being considered.

The view in the ministry is that a selection panel should not even be needed to pick the awardees and a clear criteria with points should be in place to ensure that there are no "unworthy nominations."

"It's like the prize money, if your have won an Olympic medal, you shouldn't have to fill a form to get your Rs 75 lakh prize money. The system just knows and transfers the money suitably. Similarly, an athlete who has achieved the requisite shouldn't have to be evaluated again by a panel," said the source.

Mysore A in final with two wins on the day

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mysore District A are in the final of the 2nd State Women's Basketball League Championship with two victories in the semifinal league matches at the Sree Kanteerava basketball courts here on Monday.

With Mandara bagging 27 points, Mysore A defeated Young Orion's 56-48 in their first match of the day, followed by a 67-44 victory over DYES Vidyanagar. Mandara once again played a crucial role by claiming 16 points while Kusuma contributed 15.

The final league matches will take place at the same venue on Tuesday.
Results: Semifinal league: Mysore District A: 56 (Mandara 27 pts, Kusuma 10) bt Young Orion's: 48 (Sarayu 12); HT: 29-30. Beagles BC: 64 (Aadhya 20, Swathi 19) bt DYES Vidyanagar 55 (Deepika 17, Nireeksha 13); HT: 35-27. Mysore District A: 67 (Mandara 16, Kusuma 15) bt DYES Vidyanagar: 44 (Ishitha 18, Deepika 13); HT: 33-27. Young Orion's 52 (Bindu 17, Sarayu 14) bt Beagles BC: 39 (Saanvi 12, Swathi 10); HT: 31-22.

Two players leave volleyball national camp

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian volleyball has been hit by turmoil as two senior players have quit the national camp in Ahmedabad over "incompetent coaches", removal of foreign coach Dragan Mihailovic, "poor and unscientific facilities" at the camp venue and "politics" in selection.

Anand K, a libero (a defensive position), and middle-blocker John Joseph left the camp on Sunday after their confidential communication to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) seeking better facilities at the SAI centre in Ahmedabad was leaked to the Volleyball Federation of India.

The VFI, on its part, has denied the charges, calling them "politics at play."

Anand said that they were asked to apologise and disown the "seven to eight e-mails".

HISTORIC RUN

Army man Sawan comes out of 'marathon' shadow

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sawan Barwal has now become the biggest name in Indian marathon echelons as the 28-year-old Himachal runner didn't just erase the nearly five-decade-old record (previously held by Shivnath Singh at 2:12:00) but also became the first Indian to clock a sub 2:12 timing; 2:11:58 seconds to be precise.

However, Sawan and marathon were not uttered in the same sentence until hours before Sunday's Rotterdam Marathon. That's because Sawan, a rising name in all long-distance running events, never ran a marathon and was largely overshadowed by Gulveer Singh in other events.

However, Sawan's long-time coach Yunus Khan, who also trains Gulveer and other army runners, was well aware of the talent and pitched the idea of the marathon for the Asian Games in Japan.

"Since I have been training him from his ASI Pune days while he was a boy, I am aware of his weaknesses and strengths," Yunus tells *DH*. "Last two seasons, he picked up really well, especially his long-distance training results were impressive, that's when I suggested that if he runs a marathon, 2:10 is possible and will put him in the running for an Asian Games medal."

Sawan's Sunday's race was confirming all of that as at one point it became evident that the Army Havildar is on the course of a 2:10 finish. However, as it often turns out to be the case in long-distance running, Sawan's endurance was tested at the fag end of the unforgiving event. A drop in temperature with the wind blowing left him all frozen.

"It felt smooth for most of the race and I thought the marathon is easier said than done as I was going for 2:10," says Barwal from the Dutch city.

Sawan Barwal. RFYS

"However, the last two kilometres it all started going haywire as I started to feel colder with the wind blowing. I almost had a blackout after I poured some water on my head. Then I thought it's all about crossing the line now."

Born in the high-altitude terrains of Radda Bhanker village (12,774 feet above sea level) in Mandi district of Himachal, Sawan had the favoured conditions to develop as a runner and took up long-distance running when he was in Class 11.

Subsequently, success followed at the state and national levels, urging the youngster to take up the sport seriously. A crucial moment came when his elder brother, who also serves in the Indian army, brought him closer to the quality facilities of the Army Sports Institute in Pune.

The youngster soon impressed coach Yunus with his talent during the scouting days after Sawan mustered the courage to speak to the coach to train him. Success, however, didn't come immediately he went through the rigours of the Indian circuit.

Finding a sponsor in the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports turned out to be the crucial aid as Sawan found exposure of competing in races abroad in recent years; rubbing shoulders with foreign athletes. A further breakthrough was made with acclaimed US coach Simmons coming on board in a bigger role with AFI.

Presently, Simmons, along with Yunus, trains the Indian runners from Colorado Springs and have made the objectives clear for Sawan, who is all set to return to his training base in Kunoor to start his preparation for next marathon at the Asiad.

"2:10 remains unfinished business and I hope to achieve that at the Asian Games. It won't be easy in Japan but I will try my best to become the first Indian marathon runner to win a medal," concludes Sawan.

> It's the nature of T20 cricket and trying to take down the game. It's only been a couple of games. I don't think you can judge too much off two games.
>
> **FINN ALLEN, KKR PLAYER**

IPL BRIEFS

Showcause notice to RR manager

▸ The Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of BCCI has asked Rajasthan Royals manager Romi Bhinder to explain within 24 hours as to why he was using a cell phone in the dugout during an earlier IPL match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Guwahati, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Bhinder was found scrolling his smart phone with teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi by his side. Bhinder, meanwhile, was present at the toss during Monday's game between RR and SRH in Hyderabad.

David fined for breach of code

▸ Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David was on Monday fined 25 per cent of his match fee and docked one demerit point for "disobeying an umpire's instruction" during their IPL game against Mumbai Indians, reports PTI from Mumbai.

GT-CSK fixtures swapped

▸ Citing municipal corporation elections in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat on April 26, the BCCI on Monday revised the schedule of the Indian Premier League, swapping the fixtures between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings on April 26 and May 21, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Hinge makes instant impact

Pacer has debut to remember as SRH hand RR their first loss of the season

HYDERABAD, PTI

In a debut performance that will be etched into the tournament's folklore, pacer Praful Hinge delivered the most successful first over in IPL history to engineer Sunrisers Hyderabad's 57-run mauling of Rajasthan Royals here on Monday.

Hinge dismissed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (golden duck), Dhruv Jurel and Lhuan-dre Pretorius all in his opening over, the first instance of a bowler bagging three wickets in the first over of an IPL innings.

SRH, having posted 216 for six on the back of skipper Ishan Kishan's 44-ball 91, bundled out the in-form RR for 159 in 19 overs, returning to winning ways in style after back-to-back losses.

The night though, without an iota of doubt, will be remembered for the 24-year-old Hinge's dream debut. He ended with figures of 4/34 from his 4 overs. Originally slated to make his debut on April 11 against Punjab Kings, Vidarbha pacer Hinge was robbed of the opportunity due to some last-minute changes by the team management.

However, when he finally got the opportunity, Hinge made the stage his own with an explosive start to his career in the league that is into its 19th year.

While Sunrisers Hyderabad's Praful Hinge (left) dazzled on his IPL debut, bagging 4/34, his skipper Ishan Kishan smashed a 44-ball 91 against Rajasthan Royals on Monday. REUTERS/ PTI

Sooryavanshi was beaten for pace and the resultant top edge, which went straight up, was taken by wicketkeeper Salil Arora. Hinge cleaned up Dhruv Jurel with a delivery that landed just outside off and got an inside edge before crashing into the stumps.

Pretorius looked to flick one but couldn't clear Nitish Reddy at deep backward square leg, bringing to an end a sensational first over. Bihar's Sakib Hussain, also making his IPL debut, too made it memorable for him by returning excellent figures of 4/24 in 4 overs.

Hussain, too, got a wicket in his very first over, dismissing Yashasvi Jaiswal to leave RR tottering at 4/2, which became 5/9 when Hinge had Riyan Parag slashing one to slip.

The game was as good as over at that stage but Donovan Ferreira (69 off 44 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (45 off 32) stitched a partnership of 118 runs to delay the inevitable and reduce the margin of defeat. Hussain returned to pick up the wicket of Ferreira, Jofra Archer and Ravi Bishnoi.

Hinge and Hussain combined to take 8/58 in eight overs, which best summed up the night.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Bishnoi b Archer 0, Travis Head c Ferreira b Parag 18, Ishan Kishan c&b Sandeep 91, Heinrich Klaasen c Parag b Deshpande 40, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Jurel b Archer 28, Salil Arora (not out) 24, Aniket Verma (run out) 6, Harsh Dubey (not out) 0. Extras (LB-1, W-8) 9. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 216.**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-55, 3-143, 4-162, 5-195, 6-209.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-37-2, Nandre Burger 4-0-31-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-52-1, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-55-1, Riyan Parag 1-0-5-1, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-35-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Reddy b Hussain 1, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Arora b Hinge 0, Dhruv Jurel b Hinge 0, Lhuan-dre Pretorius c Reddy b Hinge 0, Riyan Parag c Abhishek b Hinge 4, Ravindra Jadeja c Arora b Malinga 45, Donovan Ferreira b Hussain 69, Jofra Archer c Hinge b Hussain 2, Tushar Deshpande c Kishan b Malinga 25, Ravi Bishnoi c Kishan b Hussain 0, Nandre Burger (not out) 3. Extras (LB-1, W-9) 10. **TOTAL (all out, 19 overs) 159.**

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-2, 5-9, 6-127, 7-129, 8-140, 9-140.

Bowling: Praful Hinge 4-0-34-4, Sakib Hussain 4-0-24-4, Eshan Malinga 4-0-31-2, Shivang Kumar 3-0-28-0, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-19-0, Harsh Dubey 2-0-22-0.

Result: SRH won by 57 runs

PoM: Praful Hinge

daCunha/AB/1096

Super Kings hope to build momentum as they face KKR

LIVE 7:30 PM

CHENNAI, PTI: Chennai Super Kings would look to build on the momentum gained from a much-needed victory in their previous match when they host a winless Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here at Chepauk on Tuesday.

CSK logged their first win of the season on the back of an all-round performance against Delhi Capitals that included Sanju Samson's **(in pic)** first impactful knock, a 56-ball 115, for the storied franchise and a fine bowling effort.

A fit-again Dewald Brevis allowed CSK to tweak their bowling combination, making it possible for the side to defend 212 against Delhi Capitals.

Left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh impressed on his IPL debut, hitting the batters high on the bat and surprising them with extra bounce.

Jamie Overton too came into his own and was rewarded for hitting the deck consistently with a four-wicket haul.

Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, playing his first game of the season, added another dimension to the attack in the powerplay. On the batting front, Samson finally has runs under his belt in his debut season for CSK, giving him the required confidence to go ballistic in the first six overs.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	0	8	0.889
Punjab Kings	4	3	0	1	7	0.720
Royal Challengers	4	3	1	0	6	1.148
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	0.576
Delhi Capitals	4	2	2	0	4	0.322
Gujarat Titans	4	2	2	0	4	-0.029
Lucknow Super Giants	4	2	2	0	4	-0.427
Mumbai Indians	4	1	3	0	2	-0.772
Chennai Super Kings	4	1	3	0	2	-1.532
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315

McIlroy does a Rory-peat

Northern Irishman is only the fourth to successfully defend the Masters

AUGUSTA, AFP

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy poses with the Masters trophy during the Green Jacket ceremony on Sunday. AFP

Rory McIlroy overcame early stumbles and a late scare to win the Masters on Sunday, capturing his sixth major title to become only the fourth back-to-back champion at Augusta National.

The world No. 2 from Northern Ireland made a double bogey at the fourth and a bogey at the sixth, but responded with four birdies in the next seven holes and hung on after woeful late tee shots to win a second green jacket and a record top prize of $4.5 million.

McIlroy joined Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only back-to-back winners in Masters history, firing a final round one-under-par 71 to finish on 12-under-par 276 and defeat top-ranked Scottie Scheffler by one stroke.

A year after winning his first Masters to complete a career Grand Slam and snap a 10-year major win drought, McIlroy pulled off a wire-to-wire triumph.

"I just can't believe I waited 17 years to get one green jacket and you know I get two in a row. It's just sort of the way," McIlroy said. "I think all of my perseverance at this golf tournament over the years has really started to pay off."

Augusta National chairman Fred Ridley placed the green jacket on McIlroy, a role usually reserved for the prior year's Masters winner.

McIlroy seized a 36-hole Masters record six-stroke lead only to play the weekend at level par.

"It was a tough weekend. I did the bulk of my work on Thursday and Friday," McIlroy said. "But just so, so happy to hang in there and get the job done."

McIlroy, third-from last in driving accuracy for the week, saved par at 15 from the trees but sent his tee shot at the 18th over trees on the right to a spot near the adjacent 10th fairway.

With a victory at risk, McIlroy curled a dramatic approach around the pines and into a greenside bunker, then blasted onto the green to 12 feet and two-putted for bogey to secure the triumph.

"It's nice to have that two-shot cushion instead of the one like I had last year," said McIlroy, who needed a playoff to win in 2025.

McIlroy, 36, yelled with joy and lifted his arms into the air after the triumph. He hugged daughter Poppy and wife Erica after walking off the 18th green where he embraced his parents.

Scheffler, a four-time major winner seeking his third Masters victory in five seasons, was on 277 after shooting a 68 to complete a bogey-free weekend.

Leading scores (after 72 holes): 276: Rory McIlroy (NIR) 67-65-73-71; **277:** Scottie Scheffler (USA) 70-74-65-68; **278:** Russell Henley (USA) 73-71-66-68, Justin Rose (ENG) 70-69-69-70, Tyrrell Hatton (ENG) 74-66-72-66, Cameron Young (USA) 73-67-65-73.

Rs 82 crore prize pool for Women's T20 WC

DUBAI, PTI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced a record prize pool of Rs 82 crore for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, set to be held in England and Wales in two months' time.

The total purse has been increased by 10 per cent from the previous edition.

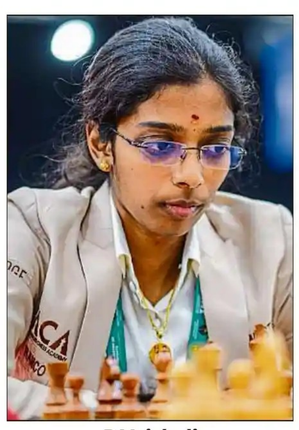
The tournament will feature 12 teams -- up from 10 in 2024 -- and will be played from June 12 to July 5 across seven venues, with the final scheduled at Lord's Cricket Ground.

While the total prize fund for the previous edition in the UAE stood at USD 7,958,077 (approximately Rs 74 crore), it has now risen to USD 8,764,615 (around Rs 82 crore), marking a 10 per cent increase over the 2024 edition.

The winners will take home USD 2,340,000 (Rs 21.8 crore approx), while the runners-up will receive USD 1,170,000 (Rs 10 crore approx). The losing semifinalists will earn USD 675,000 (Rs 6.29 crore), while every group match win will earn teams USD 31,154 (Rs 29 lakh).

"All 12 participating teams will earn an assured minimum prize pot of USD 247,500 (Rs 2.06 crore approx)," said ICC in a release.

REGAL
JEWELLERS
GRAND
AKSHAYA
TRITIYA
OFFERS
FLAT
60% OFF
On Making Charges
For All Gold Ornaments
FREE
24K GOLD
BAR
On Every ₹ 1 Lakh Worth
Diamond Jewellery Purchase
FREE
SILVER
On Every ₹2 Lakh Worth Precious
& Uncut Jewellery Purchase*
₹25,000 OFF
Per Carat On Diamond Jewellery
*T&C Apply
Offer Starts from April 13th Onwards
Jayanagar: 33rd Cross Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru | Call: +91 6292 90 90 90
Malleshwaram: Margosa Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru | Call: +91 7297 90 90 90
HSR Layout: 17th Cross Road, 1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru | Call: +91 8724 90 90 90
Kammanahalli : Kammanahalli Main Road, Banaswadi, Bengaluru | Call: +91 8720 90 90 90
Marathahalli : Varthur Main Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru | Call: +91 8404 90 90 90
care@regaljewellers.net
www.regaljewellers.net
Offers Valid At All Regal Jewellers Stores in Karnataka
FOR OFFER UPDATES & MORE INFORMATION
JAYANAGAR | HSR LAYOUT | MARATHAHALLI | KAMMANAHALLI | MALLESHWARAM



R Vaishali

Smarting Vaishali looks to bounce back

PAPHOS (CYPRUS), PTI: After squandering the chance to extend her lead, Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali will be under pressure when she takes on former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the penultimate round of the Candidates chess tournament here.

Vaishali, who was leading by a full point, suffered a setback in the 12th round, playing with white, she lost to China's Jiner Zhu, who has now drawn level at the top of the points table.

Vaishali will need to regroup after the final rest day of the tournament, which will determine the challenger to reigning world champion Wenjun Ju of China.

Apart from Zhongyi, Vaishali also faces a tricky challenge from Russia's Kateryna Lagno, who may be out of title contention but remains a formidable opponent. Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva is also in the hunt after a hard-fought win over Lagno, while Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk too remains in contention.

The two are trailing the leaders by half a point, setting up a potentially thrilling finish.

Vaishali and Zhu share the lead on seven points, with Assaubayeva and Muzychuk close behind on 6.5 points.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com